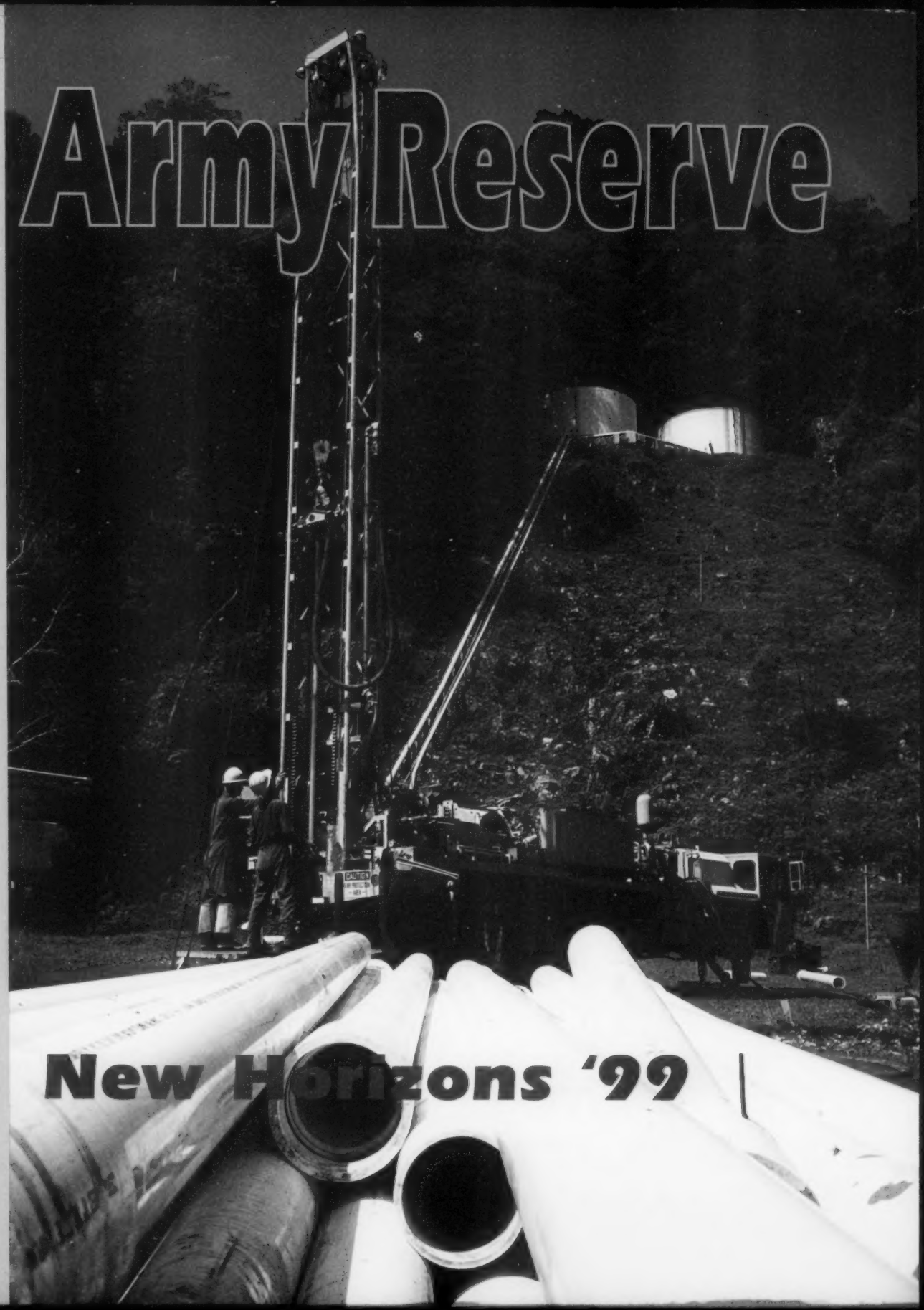
Army Reserve



New Horizons '99

Army Reserve

Volume 45, Number 1
Since 1954. America's largest circulating military magazine

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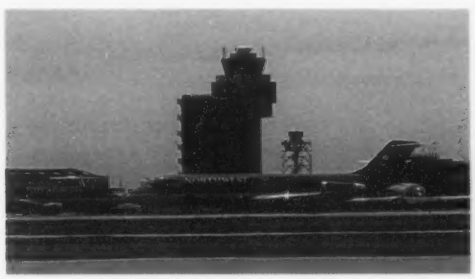

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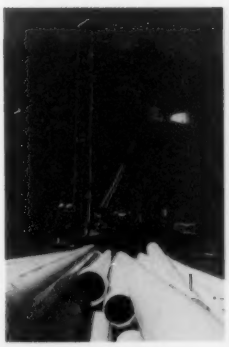


From the Commander

The Army Reserve –

91 Years young and busier than ever

Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes

Today's U.S. Army Reserve turned a very robust 91 years old on April 23.

But we have not been slowed by age. Indeed, we are becoming a new Army Reserve — more committed to our national defense in several important ways.

Army Reservists are at the Fort Dix Army Reserve Installation as part of Operation PROVIDE REFUGE. The PROVIDE REFUGE joint task force, together with the Fort Dix installation staff, is providing relief and assistance to ethnic Albanians who have been expelled from Kosovo by Serb forces. At Fort Dix, these refugees find not only safety and shelter but also smiles and friendship. I am proud that some of the first Americans these displaced people meet are our great Citizen-Soldiers.

The Army Reserve is no stranger to the people of the Balkans. Since 1995, more than 12,000 Army Reservists have participated in Operations JOINT ENDEAVOR and JOINT GUARD and now in Operation JOINT FORGE. This is more than 70 percent of all Reserve Component support from all the services mobilized for these operations. This summer more than 600 Army Reservists are in Bosnia.

Hurricane Mitch Relief

Army Reservists are in Central America, helping our neighbors to the south recover from the devastation of Hurricane Mitch. By the end of August, some 7,700 Army Reservists will have rotated through the region. Army Reserve units regularly train in Central America, but because of Hurricane Mitch, this year's training exercises, called New Horizons 99, were significantly expanded in order to provide continued humanitarian support.

The Army Reserve is responsible for the New Horizons activities in Guatemala and El Salvador. Army Reserve medical units and civil affairs specialists also train in Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic as part of the Army National Guard-led task forces in those countries. These Reserve units and soldiers come from all parts of the United States.

Thousands of other Army Reservists are or will soon be taking part in training exercises, both here in the United States and overseas. These exercises hone skills and ensure USAR units and soldiers are ready to fulfill their roles in the National Military Strategy.

Army Reserve units and soldiers must be ready because they are being called on more today than in any previous time in USAR history. In the first 80 years of its existence, the Army Reserve was called up and deployed six times. In the last ten years, the Army Reserve has been called up six times. This is being done with a force 35 percent smaller than it was ten years ago.

The Army Reserve is a busy 91-year-old to be sure but it always finds time to be a good neighbor at home. Army Reservists were there when disaster struck in Kansas and Oklahoma, helping their neighbors recover from a series of terrible tornadoes.

On a more pleasant note, Army Reservists took part in parades, open houses and ceremonies all across America to mark Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day. Soldiers from Indiana's 88th Regional Support Group, for example, were part of the festivities surrounding "the greatest spectacle in auto racing", the Indianapolis 500.

Wherever the Army Reserve goes, from the Motor Speedway in Indianapolis to Camp Eagle in Bosnia, from Operation PROVIDE REFUGE at Fort Dix to Exercise COBRA GOLD in Thailand, we bring America with us. The Citizen-Soldiers of the Army Reserve, America's hometown heroes, provide one of the Army's strongest links to the American people and represent the best of our country.

This link and this commitment will get stronger, not weaker, as we enter our 92nd year and go on into the 21st Century.

Photo by Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes poses with the Army Reserve recipients of the 1998 General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award. From left to right are: Capt. Miguel A. Castellanos, Capt. Peter J.S. Hirai, Capt. Dustin A. Shultz, Maj. Gen. Plewes, Capt. Kerry E. Norman, Capt. Erik C. Cortes, and Capt. Paul V. Rush. The awards were presented in a Pentagon ceremony on May 13, 1999.

From the Command Sergeant Major

NCO-ERs reflect soldiers performance

Command Sgt. Maj. John Rucynski

Though I have written in the past about our NCO-ER evaluation system I think it is important to revisit this important subject once again. I can think of no better way to start than to repeat some comments from the Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA) in the latest NCOER Update.

SMA Hall wrote: "Over the past ten years, the Army Leadership has continued to invest heavily in building a strong Noncommissioned Officer Corps. Now that the drawdown is over and the Army endstrength has reached a steady state, we must increase our efforts to develop our Noncommissioned Officers and not rest on past accomplishments." He continues with this statement, "I charge you to ensure that our Senior Noncommissioned Officers provide the guidance necessary to maintain a successful counseling and evaluation program, thereby keeping the NCO-ER strong." Finally in talking about the most recent CSM/SGM selection board, "The board members comments stress the need for adherence to regulatory policies and procedures designed to prevent inflation."

We continue to echo the same tune year after year and many cases we have gotten better, but unfortunately we still have those that forget some basic rules. The most basic rule is the NCO-ER is based on the soldier's "performance" nothing more and nothing less. The NCO-ER is not an exercise in trying to invent excellence bullets or finding reasons for success or needs improvement; it is based on the soldier's performance throughout the year.

In a letter to our Command Sergeants Major earlier this year I used the theme "Maintaining a Standard of Excellence for NCO-ER's." I think the letter bears repeating in order to work towards the goal the SMA has set for us, keeping the NCO-ER strong. This is even more important with new changes that will be implemented in the NCO-ER over the next several months.

The following is taken from a memorandum I sent to the General Officer Command and Direct Reporting Command, Command Sergeants Major of the U.S. Army Reserve on 1 April 1999.

Recent Department of the Army and US Army Reserve Command board actions has noted serious problems with NCO-ER's. These problems are correctable and require some professional attention to detail. In most cases it requires the rater to simply review AR 623-205 and become familiar with the rules of engagement. Many were unsigned, incomplete, and numerous evaluations had the excellence box checked with bullets that were clearly only "success." Board members take a dim view of this and I believe it can negatively effect the points a soldier receives. Those raters who continue to mark "excellence" for "success" do not do the soldier any favors. The guidance is very specific; excellence says, "exceeds standards," demonstrated by specific examples and measurable results; special and unusual; achieved by only a few; clearly better than most others. Excellence, as stated in AR 623-205, is very difficult to achieve. We continue to check excellence when we write success. A soldier's NCO-ER is based on his/her performance, excellence bullets will pop out at you, and you will not have to create them.

I always refer to the last bullet they show at DA boards when they give the presentation on NCO-ER's. It says; "PROMOTE SUCCESS." A NCO-ER with properly written "success" bullets far outweighs an excellence bullet with poor non-quantifiable or an unjustified bullet. When you meet all the criteria, when it "exceeds standards," when it is "special" and "unusual," when it "clearly" is better than most others, do not hesitate to mark excellence. Do not over inflate success by checking excellence, when it says success, then mark success. There is nothing detrimental with a solid success bullet.

A quality NCO-ER starts with quality counseling, without proper counseling you can not have a realistic NCO-ER. During initial and subsequent counseling the rater and the NCO must discuss how each value and responsibility applies to the rated NCO. Counseling must focus on duty position and what performance is considered necessary for success.

Giving specific examples of excellence that could apply gives the rated NCO something to strive for. Only when that band of excellence is reached or exceeded do you check the excellence box. I have to repeat, we ignore the fact that the excellence box was designed to be achieved by only a few, that real excellence bullets always includes specific results. They must be measurable, justified, and quantifiable, if they are not, check success.

The Senior Noncommissioned Officer Leadership have an obligation to ensure our soldiers are successful, that is how we take care of soldiers. We should encourage "excellence," we should not hesitate to mark excellence when justified, but we should not hesitate to:

"PROMOTE SUCCESS."

The Army Reserve at D-Day

By Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

June 6, 1999 marks the 55th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy, the beginning of the end of World War II in Europe.

D-Day (There were other D-Days before and since but June 6, 1944 will always be THE D-Day.) was one of the most important days of the 20th Century and one of the most decisive battles of World War II.

It was a must-win battle. The consequences of failure were horrible to contemplate. When could the Allies mount another invasion? Would they mount another invasion or would they shift resources to the Pacific and the Mediterranean? Would the Soviets overrun all of Western Europe or would the Germans be able to stalemate the Soviets, perhaps even negotiate a separate peace? What sort of advanced weaponry could the Germans develop given enough time?

The what-ifs are many but all they are now are speculation because the Allies did not fail. An important part of that Allied victory was played by a great many U.S. Army Reservists (Organized Reservists as they were known then) some famous, others unknown, many who died on June 6 before they could achieve fame. Whoever they were, these Citizen-Soldiers of 1944, like their descendants in 1999, were there when called upon and did what their country needed of them.

National Archives photo

U.S. troops land at Omaha Beach. Soldiers from all components-Regular Army, Organized Reserves and National Guard- made up the assault force on D-Day.

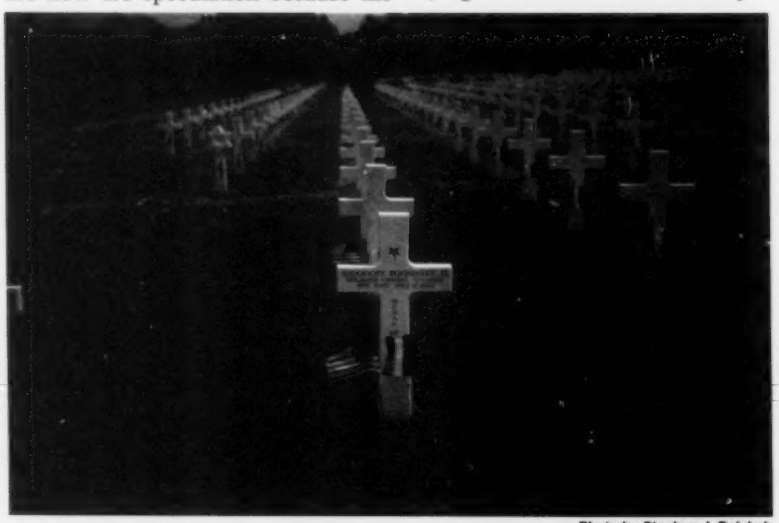


Photo by Stephen J. Polchek

Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., wanted to be with his "boys" on D-Day. He is still with them, in the American Cemetery behind Omaha Beach in Normandy. The star on his cross indicates he is a Medal of Honor recipient.

One D-Day Army Reservist was Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., assistant division commander of the 4th Infantry Division. Roosevelt was in the first wave at Utah Beach and was the first general officer to go ashore on the Normandy beaches. His courage steadied "his boys" and the command decisions he made prevented Utah Beach from turning into the near-disaster that Omaha Beach was. For his actions on D-Day, Roosevelt later received the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

A 34-year-old Army Reserve lieutenant colonel named James Earl Rudder succeeded in his mission, too, despite being wounded twice and

despite his unit suffering 50 percent casualties. Rudder commanded the Ranger Force (consisting of the 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions) on D-Day. Most of "Rudder's Rangers" landed at Omaha Beach, but three companies under Rudder's personal command scaled the 100-foot cliffs at the Pointe de Hoc and captured the German artillery emplacements there that threatened both American beaches. Rudder later received the Distinguished Service Cross for his D-Day courage.

Inland from the beaches another Army Reserve lieutenant colonel fought as an Infantry officer, even though his assignment was as a Civil Affairs officer. Strom Thurmond was a First Army staff officer. When the 82nd Airborne Division (Organized Reserve) asked for volunteers to accompany it on D-Day, Thurmond raised his hand. Thurmond went in with the glider troops, crash-landing near St. Mere Eglise on June 6. Although wounded in the landing, Thurmond stayed in action. He was later awarded the Bronze Star for his actions in the first days of the invasion.

After the war, Thurmond became a U.S Senator. Another Reservist had already been a Senator and had resigned his seat to serve his country as a soldier. Henry Cabot Lodge was the first Senator to resign to go to war since the Civil War. Already a veteran of combat in North Africa in 1942, he helped plan the Normandy invasion, which men like Roosevelt, Rudder and Thurmond executed. During the subsequent Normandy campaign, Lodge served as a liaison officer with the Free French Army.

U.S. Army photo

Rudder's Rangers atop the Pointe de Hoc after the battle. The arrow points to Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder. Although twice wounded on D-Day, he refused to relinquish command of his Rangers.

Also working with the Free French were the spies and saboteurs of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), America's wartime intelligence agency. OSS agents provided vital intelligence and disrupted communications and troop movements. Heading the OSS was a former Army Reservist, Maj. Gen. William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan, a World War I Medal of Honor recipient.

Supporting the invasion from the air were the planes of the Eighth Army Air Force, which was commanded by another Army Reserve Medal of Honor recipient, Lt. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle. Doolittle had received the Medal for leading the first bomber raid against Japan in 1942.

These were the prominent Army Reservists on D-Day but there were hundreds, if not thousands, of others. Army Reservists made up about one fourth of the Army's officer strength in World War II. Pre-war Organized Reservists were used to fill out the earlier mobilizing Regular Army and National Guard divisions in 1940 and 1941. There were possibly more Reservists in the Regular Army's 1st or 4th Infantry Divisions, the National Guard's 29th Infantry Division or the Army of the United States' 101st Airborne Division than in the Organized Reserve's 82nd Airborne or 90th Infantry Divisions (The first five divisions were the D-Day assault divisions. The 90th followed the 4th Division ashore at Utah Beach on June 6.).

Whether famous or unknown, whether they survived D-Day or not, Army Reserve soldiers were part of the Total Army team that jumped into the night sky over Normandy and did the impossible at Omaha Beach and the Pointe de Hoc to breach Hitler's Atlantic Wall and go on to liberate France and the rest of Europe. As the President of the United States later said of these soldiers, they saved the world. Their bravery and sacrifices leave us today humbled and give us a legacy to forever honor.

U.S. Army Photo

A C-47 takes off, with troop-carrying gliders towed behind it.

(Pullen is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, OCAR)

Army Reserve AGR TRICARE Survey Results

By Al Schilf

The Army Reserve has completed a survey of Active Guard Reserve (AGR) soldiers to determine the level of their satisfaction with TRICARE health care. The results indicate a perceived need for improvement.

The Army Reserve Personnel Command in St. Louis had received a number of complaints from AGRs stating that TRICARE wasn't working for them. Maj. Gen. Thomas Plewes, Chief, Army Reserve, directed that a survey be done to determine the scope of the situation. The survey was distributed via the Gateway Magazine to 11,730 soldiers. About 1,635 soldiers responded – 60% enlisted, 6% warrant officers, and 27% officers (6% undeclared).

Survey Responses

The message received was summed up in the responses to the first question, which asked them to rate the overall quality of services that TRICARE provides. About 49% rated the quality good to excellent. However, 44% rated the quality poor to fair.

The poor to fair rating is an area of concern for Plewes. "Clearly, our soldiers' needs are not yet being met by the program, especially in the more remote areas," he said. "The program has been problematic for Active soldiers, and this seems to be compounded for Reservists."

Some of the problems the soldiers experienced were:

-Not enough doctors in the network.

-Program representatives not always knowledgeable on benefits. Difficulty in getting TRICARE to pay legitimate claims.

-The list of providers is not kept up-to-date.

-Having to commute too far to see a doctor.

-Being put "on hold" too long when calling program representatives.

The questionnaire was distributed to soldiers in each of the 12 TRICARE regions.

A difference in the responses from the various regions suggests that as the program is maturing it is improving. The responses from regions 9, 11, and 12 which were started in 1995/1996 tended to be more favorable than average. The responses from the newest regions, 2 and 5, started in late 1997, were less favorable than the average.

TRICARE Changing

Some important changes are being introduced in TRICARE to make it more user-friendly for those members who work and reside outside a 50 mile radius of a military treatment facility (MTF). The first is TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR). This is a new program that improves access to health care for remotely assigned soldiers. TPR is already available to service members and their families in Regions 1, 2, 5, and 11. For information about the program call the Region civilian contractor (Region 1: 1-800-999-5195; Region 2: 1-800-931-9501; Region 5: 1-800-941-4501; Region 11: 1-800-404-0110.)

Start up of TPR in the other regions will be phased, beginning with the active duty service members late in FY99, and family members in FY2000.

Under Prime Remote, Active Duty service members will have access to civilian primary care providers either thru contractor networks or else thru TRICARE authorized providers. No pre-authorization will be required for primary care and emergency care; however, pre-authorization will still be required for specialized care, and dental care.

Members may also be able to use the contractor's pharmacy network for prescriptions.

Enrollment in TPR, however, is not automatic. Educational materials with information on how to enroll and other details are currently being developed.

Another initiative is the tri-service Military Medical Support Office (MMSO), which will start supporting remotely assigned Active Duty nationwide in June. The MMSO will direct soldiers to MTFs for fitness for duty or medical board conditions, authorize and pay dental claims, track emergency hospital admissions and patient movement, and establish eligibility and authorize payment of claims for remote reserve component soldiers injured during AT or weekend drill. A customer service line will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week (1-800-MHS-MMSO). For more information check the MMSO web page (http://nmimc-web1.med.navy.mil/mmso/).

According to Col. Tom Broyles, Army Medical Department (AMEDD), "The AMEDD will ensure every soldier has the means to access health care quickly and have it managed effectively. Along with DOD's TRICARE Management Activity and the regional TRICARE contractors, we are making every effort to make Prime available wherever possible given the availability of health care providers. Due to the wide-ranging assignments for recruiters, ROTC instructors, and our Active Guard and Reserve soldiers and depot personnel, this is complicated and time-consuming, but doable before the end of 1999."

"It's good to note that TRICARE is taking steps to improve its service to our soldiers," said Maj. Gen. Plewes. "As the Army Chief of Staff, General Reimer, recently said, let's get it right!"

(Schilf is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, OCAR)

Finance News

DFAS can make your NationsBank government credit card payment

Are you tired of waiting for your travel settlement, then waiting for your NationsBank monthly statement, then mailing your payment to Nat-ionsBank? If so, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (the people you send your travel vouchers to) can save you time and postage. DFAS has a new "split-disbursement" payment option for travelers using the Department of Defense NationsBank credit card.

"Split-disbursement" allows a designated payment to be sent directly to NationsBank, eliminating the traveler as the middleman. If you select the "split-disbursement" payment option and designate a "specific" dollar amount or "all", DFAS will electronically transfer that amount directly to your NationsBank account. The remainder of your travel entitlement will be sent, EFT, to your bank/credit union account.

However, there are a two conditions you have to meet before DFAS will do this for you. One, you must have a NationsBank travel credit card. Two, you must have an Electronic Funds Transfer account established as your travel payment method (that means, your travel settlement is currently being sent, EFT, to your bank/credit union). That's it.

Common questions asked about the "split-disbursement" payment option:

What if the amount I designate to be sent to nations bank is more than I actually have coming from my travel voucher settlement? DFAS will send the total amount you have coming, minus $5.00 (some portion of the settlement must go to the traveler), to Nations Bank. The $5.00 will be sent, EFT, to your bank/credit union account. As a minimum, DFAS will

See FINANCE, page 25

News Update

Westcott appointed as Deputy Chief, Army Reserve

WASHINGTON, D.C., —The Chief, Army Reserve announced today the appointment of Colonel Malcolm B. Westcott as Deputy Chief, Army Reserve.

Westcott, a native of Fall River, Mass., succeeds Brig. Gen. James R. Helmly who is assigned as the Joint Task Force Commander for Operation Provide Refuge at the Fort Dix Army Reserve Installation, New Jersey.

Westcott has more than 30 years of service, having been commissioned in 1970 after completing Officer Candidate School at the Massachusetts Military Academy.

His service began in the Massachusetts Army National Guard, where he served in signal and field artillery units. In 1976 he transferred to the Army Reserve. Since then he has commanded at the company and field grade level and has extensive staff experience at every level in the Army. His most recent assignment was as the Director, U.S. Army Reserve Force Programs, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve.

New Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve appointed

WASHINGTON, D.C., —The Chief, Army Reserve recently announced the selection of Command Sergeant Major Alex R. Lackey as the 8th Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve.

Lackey, who currently resides in Bowling Green, Ky., will replace Command Sgt. Maj. John E. Rucynski who is retiring after more than 34 years of military service.

Lackey has more than 28 years of service and has served in a broad variety of assignments.

His most recent assignment was as the Command Sgt. Maj. for the 100th Division (Institutional Training) in Louisville, Ky.

Lackey, will take over responsibility as Command Sergeant Major in October. He states, " I look forward to assuming the duties and responsibilities as the Senior enlisted soldier of the United States Army Reserve and will strive to insure that I represent all soldiers and noncommissioned officers." His priorities will include the strengthening of the Army Reserve by focusing on recruiting and retention, and increasing readiness by insuring that all soldiers are provided with the training required to complete their mission.

Retired Army Reserve soldier selected for Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Training, Mobilization, Readiness, and Reserve Affairs

Retired Army Reserve Master Sergeant Phillip Bernal has been nominated to be the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Training, Mobilization, Readiness, and Reserve Affairs. He will work directly for Mr. P. T. Henry, the Assistant Secretary of the Army.

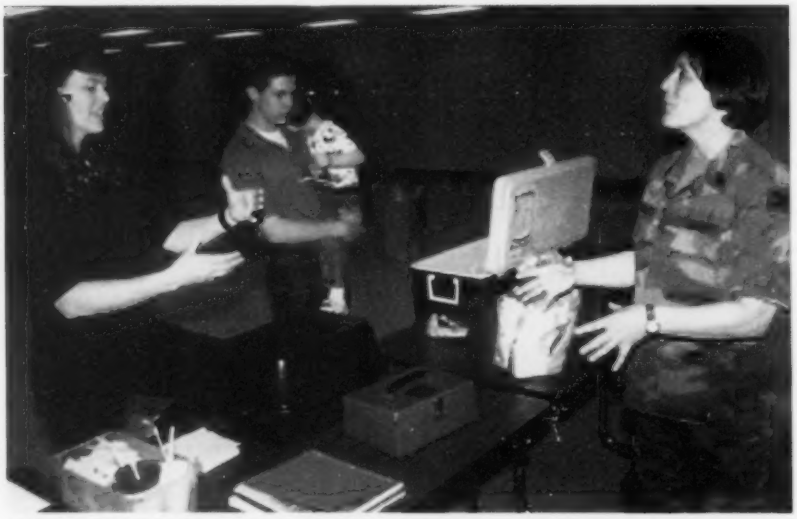
Bernal, a resident of Salt Lake City, Utah and a former member of the 358th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment brings 26 years as an Army Reservist to his new position. As a First Sergeant, he took his unit to Bosnia-Herzegovina just prior to his retirement in April 1997.

Smiles and breakfast burritos –

Story and photos by
Chuck Prichard

LOS LUNAS, NM - Saturday mornings of drill weekend start early for Debra Selisky and her squad.

At 0530, the large vehicle is loaded with equipment and supplies. After a quick count to make sure everyone and everything is on board, Selisky fires up the van and hits the highway for the 45-minute drive to the U.S. Army Reserve center in Albuquerque, N.M.



Debra Selisky (left) and sons Kevin and Tommy (in Kevins arms) discuss family support issues with Command Sgt. Maj. Patti Foley, 372nd Quartermaster Battalion, Albuquerque, NM.

> ***"The reserves are a part of Tom's life, so it is part of our lives,"***
>
> Debra Selisky

The van doesn't quite come to a complete stop in the parking place before the doors fly open and the team pours out. Without any direction from the leader, the squad quickly and efficiently unloads the equipment and supplies. Inside the center, the team moves to the designated area and sets up their station.

When the unit holds the first formation, Selisky's squad is standing tall. As the formation breaks up, they spring into action for what is their busiest time of the weekend.

Soldiers line up at the station and things are going smoothly until Selisky has to deal a problem with one of her team members.

"Mom! I have to go to the bathroom!" Tommy announces above the buzz of conversation rising from the crowd around the table.

"I'm sorry Tommy. I can't take you right now. Go with Heather this time and I'll take you next time," Selisky responds.

Tommy accepts that answer and grabs Heather's hand for the trip down the hall.

The exchange is not typical of Army Reservists. But then Selisky and her crew aren't typical reservists. In fact, they aren't reservists at all. They are family members of a reservist.

"The reserves are a part of Tom's life, so it is part of our lives," Debra Selisky said, referring to her husband who is known as Master Sgt. Tom Selisky when he reports for duty at the 372nd Quartermaster Battalion.

To get involved with her husband's unit, Debra volunteered to run the unit's family program soon after Tom joined the bulk petroleum supply battalion in 1993.

Things got off to a slow start. When she couldn't get family members of other soldiers interested in joining the group, Debra turned to some people she knew well – her children.

"It started out with just the older ones. But as they have grown up, the rest of them have joined the cause," Debra said, who works full time in a high school nurse's office.

With Debra at the helm, the Selisky squad consists of Erika and Jessica, 15; Kevin, 14; Jennifer, 12; Heather, 10 and Tommy, 2.

Tom takes no credit for pushing Debra into her volunteer role. "She just asked 'What can I do?' and I told her about the family support program. She took it from there and has run with the ball ever since," said Tom, who works the unit's operations section when he is drilling. As a civilian, Tom works for a company that services coin operated machines.

The family has become a fixture at the reserve center. Every drill morning they set up a table in the corner of the assembly hall and sell food and beverages to the more than 100

family support the Selisky way

soldiers who fill the unit's ranks.

"We started out with just donuts and coffee. But I noticed that the soldiers were going down to the fast food places for some more substantial breakfast food. I figured we could come up with something to keep them here and generate some money for our program. So we put our heads together and decided on the burritos," Debra said.

> ***"We don't do it by ourselves. Other family members contribute so much to this program when they can. We couldn't do it without them."***
>
> Debra Selisky

Every Friday night before drill the Selisky crew gathers in the family kitchen to scramble eggs, brown sausage and sauté potatoes to roll into flour tortillas. They usually make about 60 burritos and don't have a problem selling them all for $1.50 each.

"We set up an assembly line and everybody has a job to do. It goes pretty quick. I like it because it gives us something we can all do together after we've been going in all different directions during the week," Debra said.

In addition to the burritos, the group also makes snacks available to soldiers during special training events. During around-the-clock staff training exercises that are held at the unit at least twice a year, the group works a rotating shift to make snacks available to soldiers pulling long shifts.

Proceeds from the food sales and other activities are plowed back into the family support program. The money funds dinners for family members during the unit's annual Christmas party and also defrays the cost of putting on annual family day picnic in August.

"After Christmas, we always start the year out dead broke. But we build up the money during the year and always manage to stretch it as far it will go," Debra said.

The most valuable product of the group's efforts is the relationships they have built with the soldiers, Debra said.

"It really helps the kids. If Dad should be mobilized, it's not that he is going away with his 'Army unit.' They know he is going with Captain (Mike) Davis and other people who will take care of him," Debra said.

The relationship aspect of the group works two ways, said Command Sgt. Maj. Patti Foley, the top ranking enlisted member of the 372nd. "The Seliskies mean a lot to me and the soldiers of this unit. The whole atmosphere of the center is affected by their presence. It brings a warmth to the environment because the soldiers know that the families are behind them," Foley said.

Debra does not let her family take all of the credit for the program. "We don't do it by ourselves. Other family members contribute so much to this program when they can. We couldn't do it without them."

As Tom nears retirement, Debra has already contemplated the future. "He will have a lot more time to help us," she said with a laugh. Turning serious again, she continued, "Even after he retires, I don't see us giving up our relationship with the soldiers. We'll just keep coming back as long as the soldiers want us and need us."

For her efforts, Debra was recently recognized as the Family Support Coordinator of the Year for the 90th Regional Support Command. The command, headquartered in North Little Rock, Ark., is the major command for more than 300 U.S. Army Reserve units in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas.

(Prichard is with the 90th RSC Public Affairs Office)

Command Sgt. Maj. Patti Foley purchases a soft drink from Erika while Heather observes the transaction.

Fort Dix becomes home to

By Carolee Nisbet

Workers at Camp Dix wowed the Army in 1917 by constructing seven complete barracks on the new post in less than a day.

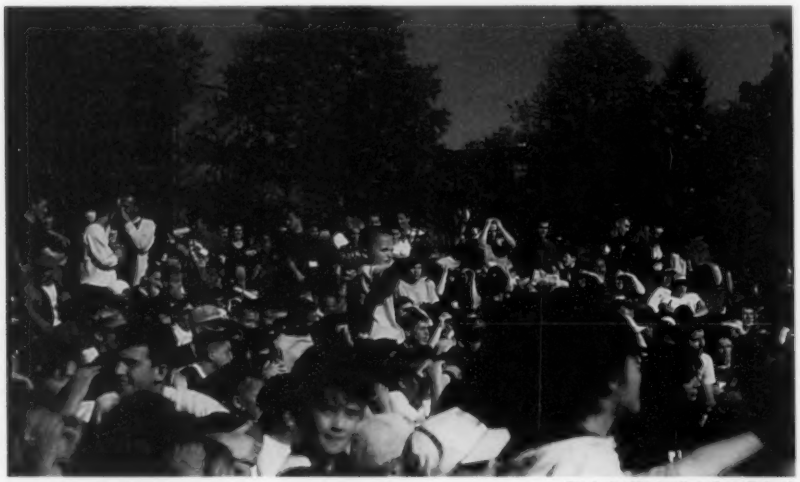


Photo by Master Sgt. Greg Delmel

Thousands of Kosovo refugees became guests of the United States government and temporary residents of Fort Dix, N.J.

Almost 82 years later, workers at Fort Dix wowed the world by converting an entire barracks area into a safe haven for Kosovo refugees in less than four days.

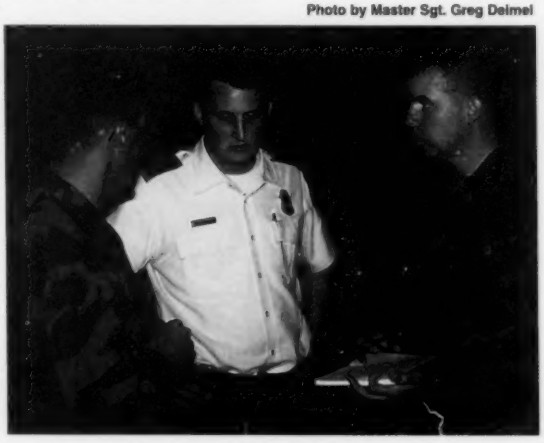
"This is a real world mission that reflects what we do during mobilization, this is a good test of our capability," said Col. Jim Snyder, Fort Dix Commander. "We (Fort Dix) take great pride in being ready in four days to accept refugees. They are proud of their accomplishments and I am too."

"We were astonished when we got here and saw the amount of work that had been accomplished," said Lavinia Limon, Health and Human Resources, who serves as director of the project. "Our partners here, especially the civilian workforce, have done an incredible job preparing the facility for nearly 4,000 refugees. The families here have told us over and over how much they appreciate what America has done to make their stay here safe and comfortable."

The staff of this Reserve Training Installation was alerted in early April to begin planning for an influx of refugees, as soon as the White House announced that the United States would accept 20,000 people fleeing the violence in their homeland of Kosovo. The State Department made it clear that bringing refugees to Fort Dix was a fall-back plan. First choice remained to process as many as possible in Macedonia and unite them directly with families and sponsors without an additional stateside stopover. A continuing flood of people into the camps in Macedonia pushed the decision to start evacuations at once, and Fort Dix was told May 1 to move from planning to doing.

Master Sgt. Steven Villa and Sgt. 1st Class Dean Shackles compare the days refugee numbers with Robert S. Dempsey of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Villa and Shackles deployed to Fort Dix from USARC.

Photo by Master Sgt. Greg Delmel



USARC Deploys

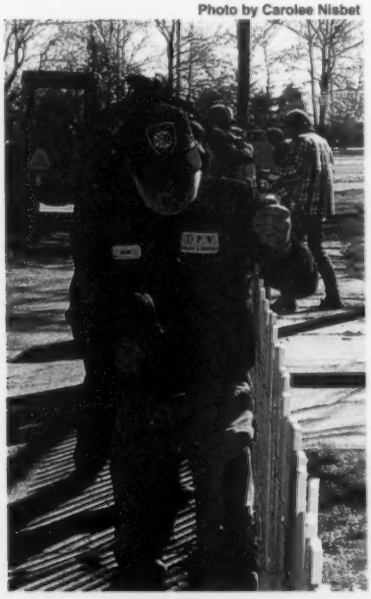
At the same time the United States Army Reserve Command, Fort McPherson, Ga. was beginning to form a task force and prepare for the possibility of Fort Dix being selected.

Brig. Gen. Mitchell M. Zais, the initial task force commander and the USARC Chief of Staff, received the phone call to move out on Friday and prepare for the first plane of refugees on Tuesday.

"We (USARC) moved out Friday night and other agencies arrived Saturday," said Zais. "We had our first

Fort Dix employee Gene Grubbe puts up one of several fences around the refugee village.

Photo by Carolee Nisbet



over 4,000 Kosovo refugees

Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Snyder

Department of Public Works painter working on one of the dormitories. Doors were color-coded to help refugees find their rooms.

meeting, the necessary tasks were identified and everyone came together as a team to handle the first plane."

The newly formed interagency Task Force Provide Refuge, headed by the Department of Health and Human Services, began with a mix of Army Reserve, Active Duty, and National Guard soldiers from New Jersey. Several government agencies non government agencies and the Fort Dix team of civilians, contractors and military all came together as Joint Task Force Provide Refuge.

Before the mission was over, Joint Task Force Provide Refuge would handle more than 4,000 refugees.

Zais told the soldiers and staff to keep the image of Ellis Island in their minds through which so many of our grandparents and great-grandparents passed. "Our goal is to welcome these disposed people to the United States as we wished our grandparents had been welcomed to this country," said Zais.

As the task force began to take shape and Fort Dix became a beehive of activity treating the refugee's as guests was foremost in their mind.

"This was an opportunity for us to do something good for people who needed help," said Mike Burns, Director of Public Works, of the Fort Dix workforce. "It was also an opportunity for us to show the outside world that even if they give us this big a mission, we can do it right."

Being Prepared

Based on long experience mobilizing and deploying soldiers, the staff at Fort Dix knew the importance of advance planning for a mission of this magnitude - and of doing as much set-up work as possible. All maintenance and repair work already scheduled for the buildings was done; prices for private work were negotiated through the JOC and contracts written and ready to go.

"If we hadn't started early on the maintenance and repair and getting the contracts in place and ready to go, the rest of it would never have happened on time," said Burns. "The biggest challenge wasn't doing the work - we knew we could do it - the biggest challenge was doing the work in the time we were given."

"Things were very hectic, but the staff at Fort Dix was ready to go. Everyone pitched right in and worked 16-17 hours a day. I don't think any other post could have done this in three days," said Command Sgt. Maj. Charlie Blackmon, Fort Dix, Command Sergeant Major.

Burns and his crew of planners walked the area, assessing each building and what would have to be done to make it part of a self-contained village for the refugees. The list was extensive, including everything from fitting plexiglass covers over stair rails to keep children from tumbling through to setting up a complete clinic to installing a perimeter fence. Contracts were placed for expanded trash collection, custodial service, portable latrines and more.

"Because we have a real good contractor base already, it was easier to get the work accomplished," said Marv Kastberg, Director of Contracting. "This was a team effort, everyone bought into the cause and were excited to make the mission happen."

"We had a daily meeting at 12:30 p.m. with all the players," Burns said. "We identified requirements, when a project would be done, the cost and did the people need support from anyone else. People worked literally 16 hours a day for two or three weeks. The clinic was set up in an unused dining facility, and the crews stripped and converted it in 30 hours flat. And it was all done with contract and in-house labor, 30 people borrowed from the Philadelphia Navy Public Works Center and prison labor from Fort Dix

See Fort Dix, page 21

1st Lt. Frowene Harvey (left) and Spc. Sonya Alexander try to keep families together as they assign dormitories rooms to refugee families. Both soldiers are from the 186th Quarter-master Company, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Photo by Master Sgt. Greg Deimel

ENHANCED NEW HORIZONS ENHANCES HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

By Major Mike Walton
Photos by Master Sgt. Greg Deimel

SOTO CANO AIR BASE, Honduras — "I feel good about helping people-there was always something inside of me that wanted to help others, I guess I am living my dream."

Spc. Teena Lundy echoed the sentiments of hundreds of Army Reservists participating in the enhanced series of the New Horizons exercises in Central America. Lundy, a medic with the 345th Combat Support Hospital, Gainesville, Fla. is one of the almost 12,000 Department of Defense personnel who will train in one of four Central American countries between February and August. The troops come from several of the Army Reserve's Regional Support Commands and 42 state or territorial Guard commands. Additionally, several dozen Individual Ready Reserve members will also participate in the series of exercises.

At the invitation of several Central American nations devastated by Hurricanes George and Mitch, the Reserve Components from all branches of the United States military service are participating in a series of expanded New Horizons exercises. National Guardsmen and Army Reservists from combat, combat support and combat service support units are performing their two or three weeks of annual training in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Honduras. These exercises provide joint readiness training for U.S. military units working along side host nation personnel and demonstrate continued U.S. support for the people of the Caribbean and Central America.

This exercise which embodies the "one mission – one fight" motto with Army Reserve and National Guard and active duty soldiers working side-by-side.

"The Enhanced New Horizons series of exercises will literally rebuild a great portion of Central America destroyed by terrible storms and restore pride and hope in the people of these nations," stated Lt. Col. Jeff Keane, the Joint Information Bureau (JIB) Director. Keane is also the command spokesman for Brigadier General James E. Caldwell, the Commanding General of the US Southern Command's Forward Command Element, or FCE, organized and functioning on the Honduras military air academy center base in central Honduras.

Army Reserve engineers drill for fresh water as the sun begins to set.

Engineers are building schools, clinics, community centers and drilling for fresh water.

"This has also shown the people of Central America how the citizen-soldiers of America's Armed Forces really come together to complete a mission." He mentioned that the FCE is roughly 40 percent Army Reservists assigned to troop units, 40 percent National Guard, with the majority, like its Commander, coming from the state of Ohio. Ten percent are Reserve Component soldiers coming from the Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy; five percent are Army Individual Ready Reserve soldiers and five percent are Active component soldiers.

"Remember that more than half of the Army's combat support and combat service support troops come from the Guard and Reserve," Keane stated, "and it becomes important that the two Reserve components become exposed to each other and work together in the same environment. This is the way we will fight…not just as units, but as individuals task organized to each others' commands."

When Reserve Component soldiers participate in "AT" — or annual training — they are often sent to a military installation where they spend the 14 to 17 days simulating an exercise. The New Horizons exercises, however, provide valuable real-world unit training. They have been conducted every spring and summer for the past ten-plus years in various Central American countries, concentrating on the repair or building of roads and bridges. The hurricane season last year modified the intent.

A significant side benefit of the expanded exercises is the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief support provided to nations hardest hit by the powerful storms of the 1998 hurricane season.

"For me, knowing that I came here, made a difference and helped out in some way is a gratifying experience," stated combat engineer Pfc. Rex Baldwin, a member of Company B, 983rd Engineer Battalion from Bryan, Ohio. His comments are echoed by other soldiers and leaders attending either annual training periods or as members of various transitional or duration teams during New Horizons.

During the rotations, Guard and Reserve soldiers will build a community center, five clinics, 12 schools and water wells, four low water crossings, a bridge abutment, and repair four dikes and nine culverts. Additionally, one kilometer of a river will be rechanneled, 35 kilometers of road improvements will be completed and more than 45,000 human and 20,000 animal medical patients will be screened and treated during the six-month period of the exercises. So far, more than half of all of the engineer projects and close to two-thirds of all of the medical and veterinary training exercises has been completed.

Many of the Reservists cannot say enough positive words about the value of the training they are receiving during their tour as part of the New Horizons experience.

Sgt. 1st Class Monica R. Warhank of the Army Reserve's 308th Quartermaster Company in Washington, Iowa, had a different end result of all of the hard work during her rotational period: training. "As a fairly new SFC, and NCOIC, I was able to get my feet wet managing soldiers, allocating resources, and it taught me a little more patience with policy makers."

Reservists will take back with them more than a positive training experience and perhaps some photos from their New Horizons experience. They will return home with memories of the Central American people, people who were excited and happy for the Americans' presence. Specialist Eva Castillo, Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical specialist assigned to the 328th Engineer Company of the 77th Regional Support Command, returned to her native Guatemala recently as part of that unit's annual training mission.

Castillo is a proud of what the U.S. Army is doing in her native country. She knows there is not enough local money for building schools and none for repairing roads, so villagers who use them daily are left the task of repairing them themselves. "The real benefit of our work is the people seeing the Guatemalan Army working with the Americans doing something good for them. I like that because trust can be rebuilt. I think that's really great," said Castillo.

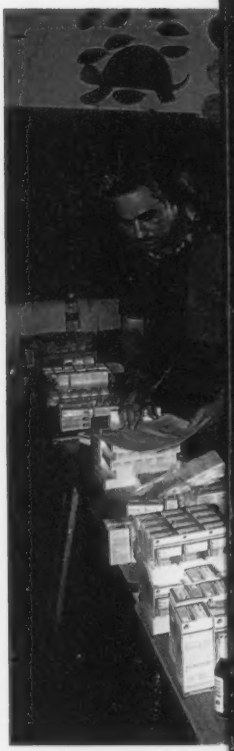
Colonel Keane added, "the best part of this series of rotations is the side-by-side cooperation and confidence between the armies of Guatemala, El Salvador and especially Nicaragua with the American military. We are teaching them daily by example of the value of our citizen-soldiers, and they are teaching us the importance of community. This is truly something which will be remembered fondly by all of those participating in New Horizons."

(Walton is Deputy Director of the Joint Information Bureau for New Horizons at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras. He is an Army Reservist with the 88th RSC)

Medical units provide construction site support and participate in MEDRETES.

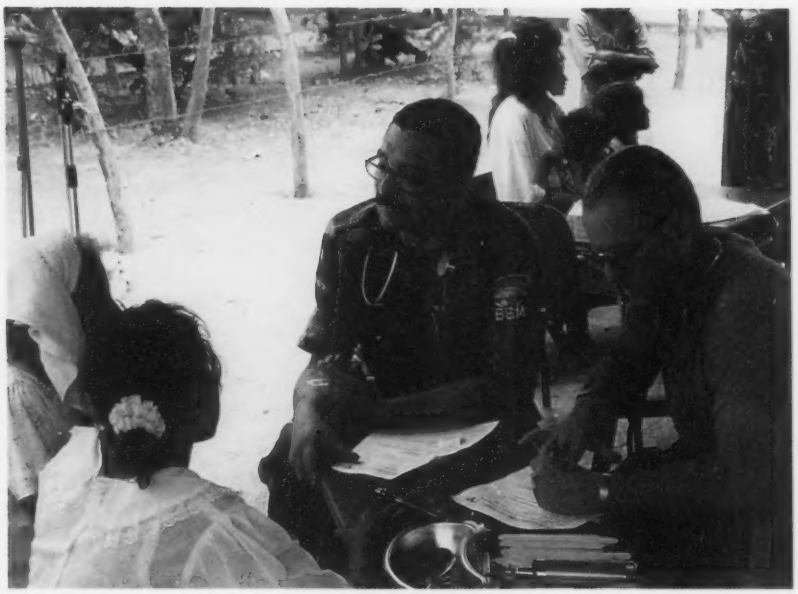
El Salvador, Medical Readiness Training

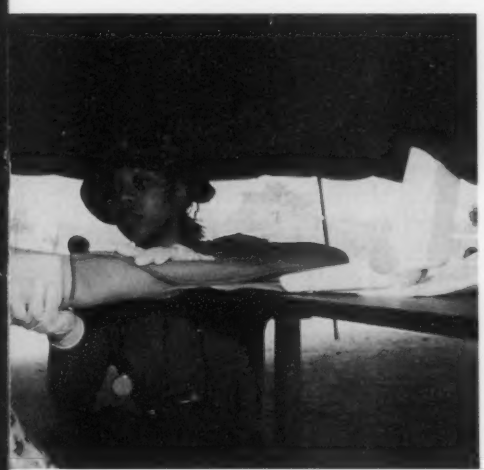
"They know that some



EL PLAYON - Spc. DeAnna Pent resonates the feelings of the soldiers who are taking part in New Horizons 99, "They know that someone cares about them." Pent, 21 years old and a member of the 345th Combat Support Hospital, Gainesville, Fla. participated with her unit during ten days of Medical Readiness Training Exercises in El Salvador. Members of the community travelled from six miles away in the hot sun for examinations and treatment by doctors, dentists and other medical specialists. Pent, an Army Reserve medic for three years and native of Leesburg, Fla is working on her nursing degree.

one cares about them"





Photos by:
Sgt. J. Craig Pickett and
Master Sgt. Greg Deimel

Army Reserve Female Apache Pilot Loves Flying

Story and photos by Tony Johnson

ATLANTA – Over the rolling hills bordering Kentucky and Indiana a pair of Apache helicopters fly side-by-side patrolling the area. The mission is to locate and destroy a "rogue" radio transmitter.

These Apache helicopters are taking part in a training exercise planned by the U.S. Army Reserve 8/229th Aviation Regiment (Attack) based at Fort Knox, Ky. While this training scenario is not that unusual, the voice of one of the Apache pilots heard over the radio might cause one to take notice. The voice is soft-spoken, yet professional and firm, and somewhat higher-pitched than you would expect. It's the voice of Chief Warrant Officer Gwen Schallow, the first female pilot-in-command of an Apache helicopter.

The Apache is considered one of the most advanced pieces of equipment in the Army's inventory. It flies low and fast and uses computerized targeting systems to help it knock out enemy tanks and equipment with armor-piercing laser-guided missiles. Not the type of aircraft some people would necessarily expect a female to be operating. But Schallow doesn't think there's anything out of the ordinary about what she does.

"I love flying. I love flying helicopters. Being one of the first female Apache pilots is kinda cool too," said Schallow. "I really enjoy what I'm doing. I have my 20-year letter from the Army Reserve and if I didn't enjoy it I could put in for my retirement."

Chief Warrant Officer Gwen Schallow (sitting in the rear seat) flies an Apache out for a training exercise.

Born in West Point, N.Y. and raised in Davie, Fla., Schallow began flying when her father gave her a flying lesson for her 17th birthday.

"It was fun. When dad asked me if I wanted to keep flying, I said 'Yes.' Then he said, 'Great, but you'll have to get a job to pay for the lessons.' So that's what I did. One of my first jobs was working at a doughnut shop."

After high school graduation Schallow admits, "I didn't really have any focus. I was offered a small music scholarship for playing flute from Stetson University so I was thinking about going there. But what was I going to do with a music degree? Maybe play for an orchestra or teach music? That didn't get me too excited. My dad suggested I check out the military."

Chief Warrant Officer Gwen Schallow places some of her gear into the cockpit of the Apache prior to a training flight.

Schallow enlisted in the Air Force in 1976 as an avionics technician. She was stationed at the U.S. Air Force Base in Upper Heyford, England and then at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire. During her initial enlistment, she earned her commercial airline pilot's license through civilian flight school. She left the Air Force in 1981 to become a full-time flight instructor and corporate pilot until becoming an Eastern Airlines pilot in 1987.

In 1983 Schallow joined the New Hampshire Air National Guard, serving once again as an avionics technician while awaiting Army flight school. She graduated from the UH-1 (Huey) Rotary Wing Qualification Course at Fort Rucker, Ala. in 1985. While attending flight school Schallow met her husband, Michael. They were married in 1990. He is also an Apache pilot with the 8/229th.

As Schallow progressed in her military career, there were several changes in her civilian career. After the demise of Eastern Airlines, she worked for USAfrica Airways, which also stopped flying, and then for Valujet Airlines which had its share of trouble as well. "The Reserves have really helped fill in the gaps between commercial airline jobs," said Schallow. "I've experienced the volatility of the airline industry first-hand."

"One of the things I have always enjoyed about working for commercial airlines is interfacing with the passengers. I sometimes get strange looks or comments from male passengers when they board the plane and see a female pilot," Schallow said with a smile.

"I like to think there might be at least one little girl who sees me in my pilot's uniform and then is brave enough to try something she didn't think she could do because she's a girl. That's where I really get pleasure out of my job."

Schallow is currently working full-

See APACHE, page 19

APACHE

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time as a pilot for Continental Airlines. Her husband is also a Continental pilot. Switching back and forth between the helicopters and the commercial jets is not difficult she explains. "The aircraft are so completely different, you don't get the two confused."

"In the military I've always felt that I've been treated fairly and equally. No differently because I'm a woman," said Schallow. "There have been a few unwelcome comments, but those have been so rare."

"Gwen epitomizes the high level of professionalism of the entire unit," said Maj. Mike Currie, executive officer for the 8/229th. "She is a shining example of how it can be done and done professionally. She is so professional she instantly earns the respect of everyone she meets."

In 1993 Schallow transferred to the 8/229th at Fort Knox when the Apache mission first opened to females. In 1994 she graduated from the AH-64A (Apache) Qualification Course at Ft. Rucker. She was the first female, Army-wide, to qualify as pilot-in-command on the Apache.

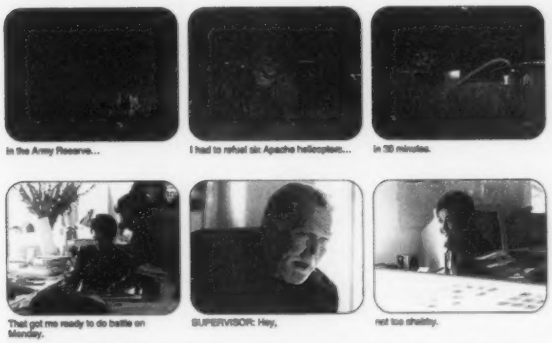
In addition to working two very demanding jobs, flying commercial passenger jets and Army helicopters, Schallow completed her bachelor's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1997. She is now working on her master's degree in aviation management from Embry-Riddle.

"Did I work harder than anyone else? I don't know because I don't know how hard they had to work. I knew what it was going to take to get where I wanted to be and that's how hard I had to work," she said.

Whether it's a huge commercial passenger jet or a two-person highly sophisticated military attack helicopter, it's her love of flying and her determination and drive that keep Schallow soaring through the clouds.

(Johnson is with the USARC PAO)

Aviation soldiers star in new Army Reserve TV commercials


In the Army Reserve...
I had to refuel six Apache helicopters...
in 30 minutes.
That got me ready to do battle on Monday.
SUPERVISOR: Hey,
not too shabby.

A portion of the advertiser's printout of the USAR commercial featuring Spc. Jeniffer Krejci.

By Maj. Mark Zimmer

The U.S Army Reserve has a new national TV campaign which departs from the traditional "Be All That You Can Be" Active Army advertisements. The new "Simultaneous Benefits" campaign emphasizes how Army Reserve service benefits your civilian life, whether in school, employed full-time or even as a parent. The commercials also distinguish the benefits and obligations of Army Reserve service from those of active duty. Research has shown that most people have a pretty good idea what it means to be in the Army but very few understand the role of the USAR.

Pfc. Pete Montez is featured in 15 and 30 second TV spots that highlight his pursuit of a college degree while serving part-time as a military intelligence analyst in the 6th Aviation Regiment, 7th Cavalry Squadron, Conroe, Texas. Montez, 21, is pursuing a career in law enforcement and studying as a full-time student at Sam Houston University. Pete's ultimate aim is to be a FBI agent. That is, if a TV career doesn't sidetrack his plans. "People stop me in the weight room and say they saw me on MTV, and they're amazed I'm not an actor, that I'm really in the Reserve." Montez says.

Spc. Jeniffer Krejci, also from the 6th Aviation Regiment, a 23 year old single mother and customer service representative, added yet another impressive accomplishment to her demanding life—starring in a national ad campaign. "I'm always looking forward to new opportunities to test myself. So when I was approached to do the commercial, I jumped at the chance." The 15-second segment focuses on Krejci tackling challenges on the battlefield as well as in the office. It demonstrates the direct benefit that Army Reserve service offers soldiers in their civilian jobs.

These commercials have to not only catch the attention of a very hard to reach audience, but also convey a compelling message to join the Army Reserve. Adults, ages 17-24, are the target for almost all Army Reserve advertising and the media of choice for reaching this age group are either television or the increasingly important Internet. The national commercials are available on the Army Reserve section of www.goarmy.com/.

The USAR TV commercials will also appear in Womens National Basketball Assc. (WNBA) games this summer.

(Zimmer is with the USAREC Public Affairs Office)

(MUSIC THROUGHOUT)
TEACHER: All right. Who can solve this.
Mr. Montez.
MAN VO: Last Saturday in the Army Reserve...
I figured out how to link up 23 Bradleys...
40 tanks...
60 Humvees...

Pfc. Pete Montez is featured in 15 and 30 second TV spots that highlight his pursuit of a college degree.

Army Reserve soldiers show off driving skills

United States Senator Jeff Sessions (Ala.) shares his driving tips with two 375th Transportation Group Drivers Rodeo participants. Sessions was on hand to visit the rodeo and a Command Post Exercise conducted by the 87th Division (Exercise) in Mobile, Ala.

Story and Photos by Paul Adams

MOBILE, Ala.-Under the watchful eyes of a host of VIPs, the 375th Transportation Group conducted their fourth Annual Drivers' Rodeo recently in preparation for the 81st Regional Support Command rodeo scheduled for August 1999.

> ***"Driving these big rigs does take power steering- all the power you can steer with your arms."***
>
> Sgt. Michael Gann,
> 498th Trans. Co.

With United States Senator Jeff Sessions (Ala.), and two general officers looking on, 28 soldiers from subordinate 375th units were required to maneuver their vehicles through a set of six obstacle courses designed to test their driving skills. The truck rodeo was a timed event in which soldiers negotiated the six different lanes driving vehicles in one of three categories - light (HMMWV) medium (2 fi-ton) and heavy (5-ton).

Competitors were also tested on preventive maintenance procedures conducted on the vehicles they operated.

Hosting Sessions on his visit to the Mobile USAR units were Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, Chief, Army Reserve and commanding general of United States Army Reserve Command, Brig. Gen. William B. Watson, Jr., deputy commanding general of the 81st Regional Support Command and Col. Steven Mannhard, 375th commander.

Congressional visits to USAR units are becoming more frequent as a result of the Army Reserve's Community Outreach Program initiatives to tell the Army Reserve story to members of congress, as well as the American people.

Visitors to the rodeo could see that to maneuver the 2 fi -ton and 5-ton vehicles through the twists and turns of the obstacle required precise timing and a lot of soldier power. As Sgt. Michael Gann, a heavy vehicle operator with the 498th Trans. Co., Mobile, Ala., put it, "Driving these big rigs does take power steering— all the power you can steer with your arms."

Sessions appeared pleased with what he saw. "These units are important to national defense," he said, adding that Alabama Reservists are "some of the best in the country."

Sessions, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, once served in the Reserve with the 375th and the 1184th U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Bn., also in Mobile. He visited his old unit at the invitation of Mannhard.

During his visit, Sessions also observed Exercise "Allied Sabre," a Combat Service Support /Tactical Simulation System (CSS/TSS) Command Post Exercise. The exercise, conducted by the 87th Division (Exercise), Birmingham, Ala., was designed to train combat service support unit headquarters and their staffs on combat service support in a theater of operations.

Sgt. Michael Gann, 498th Transportation Company, negotiates the 2 1/2-ton truck serpentine phase of the 375th Transportation Group Drivers Rodeo.

(Adams is with the 81st RSC Public Affairs Office)

Fort Dix grabs hold of Kosovo refugee mission

FORT DIX
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Federal Correctional Institution. We had $2 million in supplies and materials almost overnight, the supply people did a tremendous job.''

While DPW was converting barracks to dormitories to house refugee families, the Directorate of Logistics workforce was gathering furniture and bedding, ordering food and opening dining facilities, gearing up the post laundry and expanding the post's fleet of vehicles.

"We went from planning to doing three days before the first plane landed,'' said Bob Lichtneger, Director of Logistics for Fort Dix. "There were several plans on how to accomplish the job for DOL. We put a hold on items like office furniture through the Defense Marketing and Reutilization Office. A search through Forces Command found a lot of furniture, linens and the like from the Olympics in Atlanta - we saved close to $700,000 by taking advantage of items already in the system.''

Just as with mobilization of soldiers, dining facilities were vital to the project. DOL went from one company-size facility to four battalion and three company-size facilities in days.

The rapid expansion meant more food orders, more contract employees and something new to the system - high chairs for refugee toddlers. Food service employees searched for information on menus, seeking to offer familiar foods to refugees housed in a strange land.

The laundry also surged into high gear, not only ready to wash 2,000 sheets daily, but also to provide bundle service to soldiers on post in support of the mission.

And, of course, everything and everybody needed wheels. Lichtneger and his crew moved rapidly to expand the Government Services Administration fleet available to the post, and put contracts in place to lease vehicles and drivers to fill in the gaps. The demand for buses and drivers was especially difficult, with bus contracts as high as $3,000 per day.

Right Place, Right Time

The 1079th Garrison Support Unit located at Fort Dix normally augments the installation directorates and were on there drill weekend when the message came through to support the task force. The 1079th began annual training and would support the soldiers arriving and the installation for Task Force Provide Refuge.

According to Sgt. 1st Class James Van Hees, the 1079th "was set up for this type of mission, we've had to modify just a little."

Photo by Master Sgt. Greg Deimel

An Army Reserve soldier shares a laugh with some of the kosovo refugee children.

Missions Continue

While hundreds of refugees arrived weekly, Fort Dix still continued its normal mission of hosting unit training and its NCOES and MOS schools still held classes.

Continuing the normal day to day operations was a concern for the leadership of Fort Dix.

Some adjustments were made and tenants of the installation understood the importance of the refugee mission.

"In fact everyone volunteered to assist the Joint Task Force Provide Refuge Effort," said Snyder.

"The entire infrastructure of Fort Dix didn't just lean forward in the foxhole, they got out of the foxhole and attacked the problem," said Brig. Gen. James R. Helmly, who replaced Brig. Gen. Mitchell M. Zais as the task force commander.

As the refugee operation comes to a close, several options are being considered. According to Helmly, this ranges from a complete close out to a package of material left behind at Fort Dix containing all the information needed to resume operations in 96 hours.

Whatever the decision is, America and its soldiers and civilians displayed a "tremendous outpouring of compassion that occurs every day in America," said Helmly.

(Nisbet is the Fort Dix Public Affairs Officer. Master Sgt. Greg Deimel contributed to this story)

Fort Dix photo

Dee Messersmith, Fort Dix, Force Projection Directorate, brings smiles to childrens faces dressed as a clown.

Army Reserve, ready for Y2K

By Linda Streeter-King

Editors Note: This is the second article in a series reporting what the Army Reserve is doing to prepare its systems to meet the Y2K challenge. The first article explained what Y2K or the "Millennium Bug" is and how the USAR was responding.

Current status

Much work has been done to ensure USAR mission readiness beyond the year 2000. Our current USAR status is the result of an agency effort that began in 1997. Both technical and functional professionals have earned a well-deserved rest stop on the first major traffic jam on the information highway. Time to party like it's 1999! Right!?! Not yet. The next unofficial phase in Y2K readiness can be described as the "due diligence" phase. Every effort will be made to ensure the US Army and the USAR are fully capable of providing continuity of military operations in case of Y2K failures.

Within the USAR, all mission critical and mission essential systems have been assessed, renovated, tested and certified as Y2K compliant. The RSC Level Application System (RLAS) was the last mission critical system of five certified on March 29, 1999. Previously the AR-PERSCOM Orders and Resource System (AORS), Mobilization Personnel Processing system (MOBPERS), Reserve Database Management System (RDMS) Suite and the Resource Information System, Engineer, Reserve (RISER) were certified.

Installation of infrastructure circuitry (network communications equipment) is 90 percent complete as of June 1999, according to Lt. Col. Kim Colton, Project Manager for RLAS. Completion of circuitry installation and RLAS functional training for the remaining sites is to be completed by August 15 1999.

The USAR is now testing devices, critical systems interfaces, contingency plans and network infrastructure to ensure Y2K compliance in an operational environment.

End-to-End (E2E) Testing for Systems Interfaces and Networks

One of the first "due diligence" operations is the Army's personnel functional End-to-End (E2E) test. The E2E test "simulates the operational environment" in order to test both systems and interfaces for personnel mission critical functions. The DA goal is to ensure that each organization's critical functions are exercised throughout the IT infrastructure in a Y2K environment. The E2E test process moves testing from the technical developers to the functional owners who know their system mission.

For E2E testing, all participating systems developed Y2K system test regions. A baseline of each system's test data was captured on the same date. Test data is transferred between interfacing systems to establish baseline or test "control" data. Systems dates for interfacing system are then synchronized to critical Y2K dates: Jan 1, 2000 and February 29, 2000. E2E testing for the USAR consist of three-test "passes".

The baseline test, where system dates are synchronized to June 1, 1999 and data for interfacing systems are set to June 1, 1999 and passed to interfacing systems.

TestPass 1, where system dates are synchronized to January 1, 2000 and baseline data is aged to January 1, 2000 and passed to interfacing systems

TestPass 2, where system dates are synchronized to February 29, 2000 and data is aged to February 29, 2000 and passed to interfacing systems.

Electronic and physical outputs from the sending system are passed to the receiving system. Functional and technical system owners verify each test pass was successful based on actual versus expected results. The DCSPER will analyze all critical test passes to ensure successful interfacing in a Y2K operational environment.

The USAR is also conducting enterprise-wide Y2K compliance testing of both the Network Architecture and Software Application Systems. The tests will be conducted at a select group of Regional Support Commands and installations throughout the United States. Tests are divided into three levels ranging from tests within a command (RSC) to tests that include interfaces with external systems and agencies. USAR personnel conduct tests with support from US Army Communications-Electronic Command and US Army Operational Test Command personnel. As of June 1999, three tests have been conducted successfully. Network E2E testing is scheduled at RSCs through September 10, 1999.

Consequence Management

Consequence management is the processes of planning, staffing, training and deploying resources to deal with failures that affect performance of core mission functions. Each core mission function will appoint a member to a Crisis Action Team. CAT members will be prepared for much

See Y2K, page 30

CPR at 33,000 feet

Reserve NCO Saves Life

By Bill Geddes

WAUSAU, Wis - Quick action by an Army Reserve sergeant saved the life of an elderly grandmother aboard a California to Minnesota flight last month.

Sgt. Daniel J. Klee was 45 minutes out of Ontario, Calif. on a Northwest Airlines flight to the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport on May 12 when a flight attendant's call for medical personnel disturbed the anticipated peaceful flight home. Klee was returning from his Army Reserve unit's annual training at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Photo by Bill Geddes

"I got up and said, 'Hey, I'm a nurse,'" said Klee, an Active Guard/Reserve supply sergeant with the 213th Quartermaster Battalion, Wausau, Wis. Klee had left active duty six months ago after serving 13 years as a combat medic and practical nurse.

"(The flight attendant) asked me to come with her," Klee said, "and as we were walking down the aisle, I noticed an elderly women slumped down in her seat. Upon my initial assessment she was not responsive to any kind of stimuli. She had no pulse and was obviously not breathing. At that point I told the flight attendant I needed to start CPR now."

Staff Sgt. Maurisio Clarke, a material management sergeant for the 213th Quartermaster Battalion saw what was taking place.

"I could tell something was wrong — all I could do was pray," Clarke said, "I could see in Klee's eyes how serious the situation was; he just had that look in his eyes."

Klee told the flight attendant to get the other nurse who had responded to the call for medical personnel to assist him with CPR.

"It's easier to perform two-man CPR than one-man CPR, particularly in an airplane at 33,000 feet," said Klee.

While waiting for the other nurse, Klee gave the passenger, Virginia Brock, two rescue breaths and then laid her on the aisle floor. After checking for and finding no pulse, he started chest compressions and gave her more breaths.

At this point the other nurse, Staff Sgt. Eric Tynjala, a combat medic with the 477th Medical Company (an Army Reserve unit in Duluth, Minn.) showed up. "I directed him to start chest compressions on her, and I would continue to do the rescue breaths," Klee said. As the two soldiers performed the CPR, Brock began to respond.

I told (Tynjala) to stop the chest compressions," Klee said. "Then I spoke to the woman. 'Virginia, can you hear me?' She opened her eyes and said 'Yes, I hear you. What happened?'"

Klee explained they had just performed CPR because she had no pulse and was not breathing. After attaching an oxygen mask to her, he continued to talk to her to make sure she was still responsive.

"I really didn't want to go through this again," Klee said. "I obtained her medical history from her and her husband. She has a history of congestive heart failure, and there were some other things going on."

As he spoke to her, the 74-year-old grandmother was beginning to regain her senses. "When I woke up, I didn't feel anything," Brock said. "I opened my eyes and looked up and there was this beautiful young face looking down at me. I looked into this man's face and thought 'I think I love you.'"

Based on his assessment of the situation, Klee recommended an emergency landing to the flight attendant so that Brock could be handed over to a higher medical authority. Within minutes the pilots announced that they would be making an emergency landing in Salt Lake City.

"After all was said and done, I felt pretty apprehensive about what had just occurred," Klee said. "You can train for things like that, but until it really happens, you don't know how you're going to do."

Fortunately, Klee had his medical training to draw on. "That helped me,"

See LIFE, page 30

Want to learn more about CPR?

To learn how to respond in emergency situations and to recognize and care for life-threatening respiratory or cardiac emergencies in adults contact your local chapter of the American Red Cross.

American Red Cross

The Red Cross CPR course lasts at least four hours and teaches you how to recognize the signs and symptoms of a heart attack and provide care to reduce the chance of cardiac arrest. You will also learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of a breathing emergency, how to care for an adult who stops breathing, how to care for an adult who is choking and how to give CPR to an adult whose heart has stopped beating.

Upon completion of the course you will be certified for one year. Army Reserve medical units may also offer CPR training, remember the instructor must be certified by the Red Cross to provide the Red Cross CPR course.

To find a Red Cross chapter near you and for more information visit www.redcross.org.

Fraternization policy affects all soldiers

By Courtenay Welton

Fraternization. Ok, we all know the rules. Right? Well, not exactly. Some things do change. That is what has happened with the Army's revision to AR 600-20, Army Command Policy. The new regulation contains a number of specific details concerning relationships between soldiers of different ranks, defines "officer " to include both commissioned and warrant officers, places more responsibility on commanders and supervisors to enforce the regulation and addresses Reserve Component soldier situations. Commanders also must comply with a requirement to conduct training on the new regulation.

The regulation is the result of an order by Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen last year for the services to standardize their good order and discipline policies. As a result, the Army had to change its more lenient fraternization policy to be in line with the other services.

The changes fall into two general categories – business and personal relationships, and each identifies specific relationships that are now forbidden.

In general, business relationships between officers and enlisted personnel are prohibited. The exceptions include landlord/tenant relationships and one-time transactions (such as the sale of an automobile or house). Existing business relationships that were authorized under previous Army policy are exempt until March 1, 2000. For USAR and Army National Guard (ARNG) soldiers only, business relationships that exist due to civilian occupations or employment are allowed.

Similarly, personal relationships have prohibitions and exceptions. Dating, sharing living accommodations and intimate or sexual relationships between officers and enlisted personnel are prohibited.

The exceptions include marriages that exist now or are entered into prior to March 1, 2000; relationships that violate policy only because of the promotion or change in status of one military member (for example, two enlisted soldiers are married and one is commissioned through OCS); for USAR/ARNG only, personal relationships that exist due to civilian acquaintanceship (unless individuals are on active duty other than annual training); for active Army soldiers, personal relationships with a member of the USAR/ARNG that exist due to civilian (off duty) association (unless the USAR/ARNG soldiers is on active duty other than AT); and existing personal relationships between officers and enlisted personnel that were authorized under previous Army policy are exempt until March 1, 2000.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Ulery

In addition, gambling between officers and enlisted personnel is prohibited, with no exceptions.

The policy also prohibits relationships between permanent party and initial entry training soldiers and permanent party personnel assigned or attached to the U.S. Army Recruiting Command and potential prospects, applicants, members of the Delayed Entry Program or Delayed Training Program.

Associations between officers and enlisted soldiers that occur in the context of community organizations, such as religious activities, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, athletic teams, unit-based social functions and family gatherings are allowed.

Obviously, the changes in the regulation may have real-world ramifications for USAR soldiers who are involved in a relationship that is or will be prohibited. In general, the Army considers the senior person in a relationship to be in the best position to terminate or limit it, but all servicemembers may be held accountable for violations of the policy.

That responsibility also extends to commanders. MG Thomas J. Plewes, the CAR, has directed that commanders certify that all members of their command have received training on the new policy by October 1, 1999. Additionally, commanders will be expected to apply the regulation appropriately and fairly, using the options available to them for enforcing it.

One tool that commanders and other soldiers will have to help them understand the impact of the new regulation is DA Pamphlet 600-XX, Relationships Between Soldiers of Different Ranks. It supplements AR 600-20 and provides examples of proper and improper relationships between soldiers of different ranks from the perspective of both preferential treatment and personal relationships.

The scenarios describe a relationship, explain how it does or does not violate the regulation and outlines the actions that both the involved parties and commanders should take, as well as the results of not complying with the regulation. Several of the scenarios describe possible relationships between USAR/ARNG soldiers (TPU, AGR and Military Technicians) in different situations. They cover several different kinds of realistic situations and they provide good guidelines for reservists on how to conduct themselves in those situations.

(Welton is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, OCAR)

Units begin MPRJ elimination project

By Julia Coyner

ST. LOUIS - The Personnel Electronic Records Management System, maintained at the Army Reserve Personnel Command, is helping to reduce hard-copy documents. "This [PERMS] ties into the elimination of the Military Personnel Records Jacket maintained in the field," said Peggy Thomeczek, chief, AR-PERSCOM Personnel Records Imaging Services Division. "There will be no need for this file to be maintained since the documents can be pulled up through PERMS. "Eighty percent of the information found in the MPRJ is also found in the Official Military Personnel Folder [on PERMS]," she said.

Elimination of the MPRJ began in April and is expected to be a 18-month project. Army Regulation 600-8-104, Military Personnel Information Management/Record has been updated in draft form to detail new record requirements, Thomeczek said.

Two of the primary updates to AR 600-8-104 are:

- The Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) will no longer be in microfiche form but will be electronic.
- The MPRJ will be eliminated in the field.

"The unit will still have a Military Personnel File (MPF) to maintain administrative information such as Servicemen's Group Life Insurance elections," Thomeczek said, "but this information will be given to the reservist when he leaves his unit."

The MPRJ elimination also affects any individual who left the active component, National Guard or an Army Reserve unit and transferred to the Individual Ready Reserve. For these soldiers, the MPRJ, soon to be the MPF, will be given to the soldier rather than sent to AR-PERSCOM.

In May, Army Reserve units will begin receiving packets with a memorandum of instruction as well as a copy of the section of AR 600-8-104 detailing what information goes into a PERMS file and what information should be kept in the MPF at the unit.

"Every soldier in the unit will be provided with a list of the documents currently stored in PERMS," Thomeczek said. "The UA [unit administrator] and the soldier need to sit down with the MPRJ, identify what they have and send any official updates to us so we can include them in the soldier's PERMS record," she said.

Each unit will have three months to complete this review and respond to AR-PERSCOM. "We will database and track what we receive back from the units," Thomeczek said. "Right now, we will ask the UAs to hold all updates and send them as one packet."

"The USARC has also been getting the word out on this," Thomeczek said. "It's USAR-wide, not just AR-PERSCOM."

(Coyner is with the AR-PERSCOM Public Affairs Office)

FINANCE

From page 9

always send you at least $5. This is one way of telling you that your travel voucher has been settled; they will also send you a voucher explaining what, and how much, was paid.

Will I still get a statement from nations bank? Yes. NationsBank will still send you a statement every month there is new activity, or when there is a remaining balance.

If I designate "all" of my travel settlement to go to nations bank, how will I know how much was sent? The settlement voucher DFAS sends you whenever you submit a travel voucher will show how much was sent to NationsBank. Remember, even if you designate "all" funds to be sent to NationsBank, DFAS will still send $5 to your bank/credit union account.

What if the amount I designate is more than I actually owe nations bank? You will then have a credit balance with NationsBank. You can either leave it as a credit balance to be offset by future travel charges, or you can request NationsBank send you a check for the credit balance amount.

How do I request the "split-disbursment" option? Check the "Split Disbursement" box and write "all" or the specific amount you want sent to NationsBank in "Block 1" of the Travel Voucher (DD Form 1351-2, Aug 97 version).

An example of how this "split-disbursement" works. A traveler calculates that she charged, on her NationsBank government charge card, $250.50 for lodging, $125 for her rental car and 50.25 for meals during her official travel. Total charges come to $425.75. She "Xs" the "split-disbursement" box and writes "$425.75" in "block 1" of her DD Form 1351-2 (Aug 97 version). DFAS calculates her total entitlements for the trip are $701.00. DFAS electronically transfers $425.75 directly to her NationsBank credit card account, and the remaining $275.25, via EFT, to her personal bank account.

Extra traveler's hint: If, while on official travel, you use your NationsBank credit card to get cash from an Automatic Teller Machine (ATM), NationsBank will charge you a 1.9% service charge (i.e. NationsBank will charge you $101.90 for a $100 ATM cash advance). Don't forget to add that 1.9% cash advance service charge to your "split-disbursement" amount in "block 1"if you want your account paid in full. Also, don't forget to list that service charge amount ($1.90) in "block 18" of the DD Form 1351-2. It's a valid, reimbursable expense.

For more information contact MAJ Pablo Feliciano, OCAR Pay Support Center, Comm (317) 510-2072, email address: pablo.feliciano@dfas.mil

People

Miss America's Dad USAR CSM

Photo by Master Sgt. Greg Deimel

Nicole Johnson, Miss America 1999, pauses before performing the National Anthem for the Washington D.C. USO awards dinner.

By Spc. Melanie Patterson

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Johnson and his family are newborn celebrities thanks to his daughter's recent accomplishment.

Nicole Johnson, former Miss Virginia, accepted the Miss America crown Sept. 19 in Atlantic City, N.J.

"Under any circumstances, it's just breathtaking," said the elder Johnson, of Headquarters, 3rd Brigade, Fort Gordon, Ga. Johnson lives in Florida with his wife, Emily and son Scott, 22.

Despite his daughter's achievement, Johnson describes Nicole, 24, as "a very normal person … maybe abnormal in the fact that she's always been focused on success."

Johnson said he hopes his military experience has something to do with his daughter's achievement.

He has spent plenty of time talking with her about the management principles of the military, world affairs, politics and other topics.

"Just living in the household, some of my viewpoints have obviously affected her," Johnson said.

Johnson has also learned some lessons from his daughter. "She really gives you strength. She has really taken in stride the bumps life has given her," he said referring to her diagnosis of diabetes more than four years ago.

Although he has missed many family events because of military assignments, Johnson said his children have learned the importance of duty.

Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Johnson, Miss America's dad.

"Hopefully, (Nicole) sees a work ethic in me," he said. "I've missed a lot of things my family has done due to an active military life," he added. "We don't feel like we've lost the quality of life, just the quantity."

Johnson's family schedule is sometimes tight, but he said it has not affected his close relationship with his wife and children. "We have a lot of fun when we get together as a family," he said. "It's nearly one continuous laughing period.

"Along with Scott, (Nicole is) the light in our family."

Photo by Master Sgt. Greg Deimel

Staff Sgt. Heidi Madsen and her husband Tom Seymour.

Reservist honored by USO

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Staff Sgt. Heidi Madsen a nurse with the 94th General Hospital, Seagoville, Texas, was honored at the Sixteenth Annual USO of Metropolitan Washington Awards Dinner. Madsen and six other members of the reserve components were recognized for their dedication and service to their country.

Through her tenure in the Army Reserve she has been recognized as the NCO of the year several times and received the 807th Medical Brigade Macario Garcia Award.

Madsen said one of the reasons she joined the military was because of the long history of military service in the family.

Before receiving her "Rising Star" award carved of white marble, Madsen and her husband had the opportunity to rub elbows with Steven Spielberg. Spielberg was honored for his depiction of American soldiers during the D-Day invasion in the movie, "Saving Private Ryan."

Each honoree was selected by their service, Madsen was nominated by the 90th RSC and approved by a board at OCAR.

Kudos

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Priest-84th Training Division win Drill Sergeant of the Year

FORT MONROE, Va. (Army News Service,) — Two noncommissioned officers who describe themselves as 'battle buddies' were named Drill Sergeant of the Year for the active and reserve Army components today.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert T. Priest, 84th Training Division, Milwaukee, Wis., was the top Army Reserve drill sergeant. Staff Sgt. Terry J. Dokey became the second consecutive NCO from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to be the best among active drill sergeants.

"When I went down to Fort Leonard Wood to train I trained with Sgt. Dokey," Priest said. "We did a lot of studying together, did PT together and did modules together."

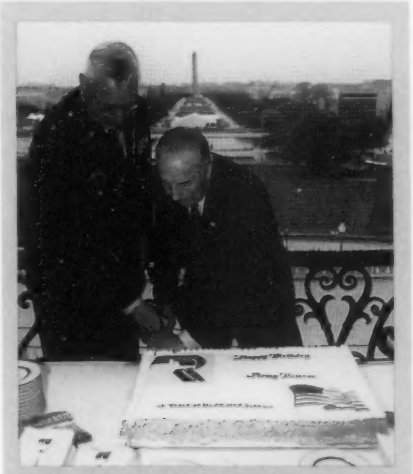
The two soldiers are also Indiana natives — Priest from Lafayette and Dokey from South Bend. Both are also infantrymen.

"And we think a lot alike. Of course we're battle buddies," said Priest, an instructor at the 84th Drill Sergeant School at Camp Atterbury south of Indianapolis.

Continues next column

Priest entered the Army Reserve in 1989 after a hitch in the Marine Corps. He has been a drill sergeant since 1990.

After being named top drill sergeants for their units for 1998, the two men joined 14 active and seven reserve soldiers at Fort Monroe June 14, to compete for the Army titles.



Kudos to the Army Reserve on the occasion of its 91st birthday. Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes and Senator Strom Thurmond, S.C. use a saber to cut the first piece of cake. The brief ceremony took place at the Capitol and included representatives from the Army Reserve Ambassador program.

Army Reserve Career Counselor of the Year

The U.S. Army Reserve Career Counselor of the Year is Sgt. 1st Class Barbra Foster, retention non-commissioned officer for the U.S. Army Reserve 88th Regional Support Command.

"I was overwhelmed at being selected," said Foster. "It was a great honor to represent the 88th RSC. It's great to be able to have achieved something that I had always thought about but did not think was possible."

Taking care of soldiers and having good problem solving skills are two of the things that Foster credits with her success as a retention NCO.

"This is a job you perform from the heart with the intended goal of taking care of the soldier," said Foster. "You must research regulations and policies to be able to provide your soldiers with current and correct information. You must become the expert in retention and your soldiers will trust you."

Foster joined the Army Reserve in 1986 as a medical laboratory specialist. She served with the 375th Medical Detachment and then the 337th Combat Support Hospital, both located at Fort Ben Harrison in Indianapolis, Ind. In 1990 she accepted the additional responsibility of retention non-commissioned officer for her unit. Foster accepted her current assignment at the 88th in 1996.

Continues next column

Foster works full-time as a unit administrator for the 337th. She has completed three years of study towards a bachelor of science degree in nursing and hopes to complete her degree soon. Foster lives with her two children, Timothy and Barbra, in Indianapolis.

Congratulations to the following units, installations and individuals for winning the awards listed below.

Worldwide Language Olympics

The Army Reserve 300th Military Intelligence Company (Linguist), Austin, Texas, took top honors in the 1999 competition. The 300th won first place in the Best Unit Overall (Multiple Teams) Resident Competition.

Army Communities of Excellence

Chief of Staff of the Army Winner: 412th Engineer Command, Vicksburg, Miss

Chief of Staff of the Army Finalist: 7th Army Reserve Command, Schwetzingen, Germany

Maintenance Excellence Awards

Light Category, winner-942nd Transportation Company, North Charleston, S.C.

Intermediate Category, winner- 425th Transportation Company, Salina, Kan.

Runner-up-Company C, 489th Engineer Battalion, Harrison, Ark.

Heavy Category, winner- Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 479th Engineer Battalion, Watertown, N.Y.

Runner-up- 952nd Engineer Company, Paris, Texas

Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for Cultural Resources Management-Fort McCoy, Wis

Mailcall

Editor's Note: It is our policy to carry letters to the editor and, on occasion, to respond to those letters. In our last issue, we featured an article about the safety and efficacy of the anthrax vaccine. This article prompted a USAR NCO in Michigan to write and pose some questions. Because his questions represent many of the concerns being voiced in the field, Army Reserve has decided to answer each of them directly, and to offer additional information that soldiers, their families, and the community deserve to know. Maj. Don Donahue, OCAR Personnel Division Anthrax Project Officer, prepared this reply in conjunction with the Office of the Surgeon General.

The Defense Department's Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program (AVIP) has received considerable attention in the media. Unfortunately, not all of this attention has featured the available information concerning this vaccine and the immunization program. The highlighted boxes contain the letter, in its entirety, that we received from this concerned soldier.

Dear Sir:

I would like to respond to SFC Greg Deimel's article "Anthrax Vaccine-safe, effective," ARM Issue 3, 1999.

This article is informative and well written. From reading the feature, SFC Deimel stresses that inhalation is the "most deadly and almost always fatal" form of anthrax infection. This is totally true. But then he continues on stating that "Vaccination is the best defense against biological warfare involving anthrax." However, this is worded cleverly to avoid stating that the vaccine can protect soldiers from INHALED anthrax. The question is not if it does protect or not, the issue is that it has not been tested. Additionally, the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases web site claims that there is NO scientific evidence that the vaccine will protect from aerosolized anthrax.

The anthrax vaccine protects recipients from *all* forms of anthrax exposure – cutaneous, ingested, and inhalational. This vaccine has been extensively tested against each of these modes of transmission.

A Real Threat – Today

Bacillus Anthracis

Anthrax is considered to be one of the biggest threats facing our troops today. Anthrax forms a spore; a protective coating that protects the bacteria for many years. The resistant spore form of the anthrax bacteria is extremely stable. This makes it easier to weaponize than most other biological agents. It can be produced in large quantities and is easy to distribute. The agent can be efficiently disseminated downwind by spraying, from aircraft, or by artillery. Under the conditions of biological warfare, a lethal number of spores could be inhaled in a short period of time – about one deep breath.

"Biological warfare involving anthrax" is, therefore, almost by definition involving inhaled anthrax.

The Question of Testing

The anthrax vaccine licensed for use in the U.S. – the one being administered by DoD – has been and continues to be extensively tested. It is not tested on humans, however, as a countermeasure to weaponized anthrax. To do so would be unethical, immoral, and illegal. This forces us to use other means of testing and to look for other proof of the vaccine's usefulness.

Given that we cannot use human subjects to perform clinical trial of the vaccine against inhaled anthrax, science must rely on animal models to approximate protection afforded by the vaccine – what researchers call an aerosol challenge.

According to the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Disease, new studies show that the vaccine induces an immune response in 100 percent of recipients after 2 doses. To show the effectiveness of the vaccine in preventing disease after an aerosol challenge, animal studies utilizing Rhesus monkeys have been performed. In two published studies, 29 of 30 monkeys given two doses of anthrax vaccine were protected against a lethal aerosol challenge. The one monkey fatality was in the group that was challenged almost two years later. In an additional published study, all 10 monkeys that received one dose of vaccine survived aerosol challenge 6 weeks later. Thus 39 of 40 monkeys vaccinated with the licensed anthrax vaccine – or 98 percent – survived a lethal aerosol challenge.

While statistically significant data on human inhalational exposure do not exist, the human antibody response to vaccine and the animal protection data provide compelling evidence that the vaccine series will be effective in preventing disease after an aerosol exposure from all anthrax strains.

I am sure the author had the most recent vaccination literature available to him when preparing this article. So I find it hard to understand why the information on the FDA Product Information Leaflet was not included in the article. This leaflet must be included within every shipment of the vaccine. The actual name of the vaccine is "Anthrax Vaccine Adsorbed." One can deduce from that logic that the vaccine only protects those who come into contact with anthrax spores and has it adsorbed through the skin.

The term "adsorbed" is different from the word "absorbed." Vaccines that are adsorbed have their active ingredients attached onto the surface of a chemical called an adjuvant. Adjuvant comes from the Latin word for "to help." The adjuvant in anthrax vaccine is a form of aluminum that increases the antibody response from vaccination.

Additionally, the leaflet states that NO STUDIES have been conducted on the effect of the vaccine on fertility and reproduction, nor if the vaccine has any carcinogenic effects. Can a lack of these studies truly deem a product "totally safe?"

The FDA Product Information Leaflet is included with every shipment of the vaccine and is present at every immunization. Product Information Leaflets are not routinely distributed during vaccinations by either the military or the civilian medical communities.

No studies have been conducted on the effect of this vaccine on fertility and reproduction or on possible carcinogenic effects. In fact, the FDA does not require studies of this type on *any* vaccine. They are, therefore, not conducted by the pharmaceutical industry. This is not uncommon. Many products licensed by the FDA, such as aspirin and vitamins, are sold and widely consumed without these studies.

Lastly, according to the U.S. Government Material Safety Sheet, formaldehyde is not approved for human consumption. Yet the vaccine contains a concentration of formaldehyde "not to exceed 0.02%" to aid in preservation. This is not a legal vaccine to distribute to humans as a result, in my opinion.

The Material Safety Data Sheet correctly warns people not to swallow formaldehyde. Formaldehyde and other substances are FDA-approved for use in the vaccine manufacturing process. This is closely regulated and monitored by the FDA. In this vaccine, no more than 0.02% formaldehyde and 0.0025% benzethonium chloride are added as preservatives – less than 1/300th of a drop. Many of the diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (commonly called DTP) immunizations routinely given to children in the U.S. and to all new recruits to the military contain formaldehyde – as does some versions of the polio and plague vaccines.

Other Concerns

There have been questions, based on religious concerns, concerning the alleged use of pork or pork products in production of this vaccine. No animal products are used in this process.

The anthrax vaccine does not contain squalene. Anthrax vaccine has never contained squalene. Independent testing recently conducted on every lot of vaccine in the current stockpile did not detect squalene. Squalene occurs naturally in humans as a precursor to cholesterol and is a component of many commercial products. Medical science has not established any cause and effect relationship between squalene and any known diseases. The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research are conducting further research to establish the relationship of squalene to human health.

SFC Deimel, your article is clearly one sided. I am not saying that the vaccine is not safe, I am saying that it is not completely tested. This needs to be corrected before any more vaccine is given.

As discussed above, Anthrax Vaccine Adsorbed has been extensively tested both as a condition of granting of the original FDA license and subsequently. That testing continues today.

See RESPONSE, page 30

Ancient and Deadly: Anthrax in Nature and War

Anthrax exists in nature and has been a threat to man for most of recorded history. Domestic and wild animals become infected when they ingest spores while grazing on contaminated land or eat contaminated feed.

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The protective spore that anthrax forms makes it particularly useful – and deadly – as a weapon. Long lasting and unaffected by nature and even most disinfectants, the resistant spore form of the anthrax bacteria is easily distributed by spraying, from aircraft, or by artillery.

Unlike chemical weapons which have an immediate effect, the results of an attack with anthrax will not be seen for several days. Exposed and unprotected individuals will initially show signs of a cold or flu. These symptoms subside in a couple of days. A short time later, more severe symptoms will emerge. Within a day or two it will be obvious that weaponized anthrax is at work.

By then, it will be too late.

Mailcall

Editor's Note: It is our policy to carry letters to the editor and, on occasion, to respond to those letters. In our last issue, we featured an article about the safety and efficacy of the anthrax vaccine. This article prompted a USAR NCO in Michigan to write and pose some questions. Because his questions represent many of the concerns being voiced in the field, Army Reserve has decided to answer each of them directly, and to offer additional information that soldiers, their families, and the community deserve to know. Maj. Don Donahue, OCAR Personnel Division Anthrax Project Officer, prepared this reply in conjunction with the Office of the Surgeon General.

The Defense Department's Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program (AVIP) has received considerable attention in the media. Unfortunately, not all of this attention has featured the available information concerning this vaccine and the immunization program. The highlighted boxes contain the letter, in its entirety, that we received from this concerned soldier.

Dear Sir:

I would like to respond to SFC Greg Deimel's article "Anthrax Vaccine-safe, effective," ARM Issue 3, 1999.

This article is informative and well written. From reading the feature, SFC Deimel stresses that inhalation is the "most deadly and almost always fatal" form of anthrax infection. This is totally true. But then he continues on stating that "Vaccination is the best defense against biological warfare involving anthrax." However, this is worded cleverly to avoid stating that the vaccine can protect soldiers from INHALED anthrax. The question is not if it does protect or not, the issue is that it has not been tested. Additionally, the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases web site claims that there is NO scientific evidence that the vaccine will protect from aerosolized anthrax.

The anthrax vaccine protects recipients from *all* forms of anthrax exposure – cutaneous, ingested, and inhalational. This vaccine has been extensively tested against each of these modes of transmission.

A Real Threat – Today

Bacillus Anthracis

Anthrax is considered to be one of the biggest threats facing our troops today. Anthrax forms a spore; a protective coating that protects the bacteria for many years. The resistant spore form of the anthrax bacteria is extremely stable. This makes it easier to weaponize than most other biological agents. It can be produced in large quantities and is easy to distribute. The agent can be efficiently disseminated downwind by spraying, from aircraft, or by artillery. Under the conditions of biological warfare, a lethal number of spores could be inhaled in a short period of time – about one deep breath.

"Biological warfare involving anthrax" is, therefore, almost by definition involving inhaled anthrax.

The Question of Testing

The anthrax vaccine licensed for use in the U.S. – the one being administered by DoD – has been and continues to be extensively tested. It is not tested on humans, however, as a countermeasure to weaponized anthrax. To do so would be unethical, immoral, and illegal. This forces us to use other means of testing and to look for other proof of the vaccine's usefulness.

Given that we cannot use human subjects to perform clinical trial of the vaccine against inhaled anthrax, science must rely on animal models to approximate protection afforded by the vaccine – what researchers call an aerosol challenge.

According to the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Disease, new studies show that the vaccine induces an immune response in 100 percent of recipients after 2 doses. To show the effectiveness of the vaccine in preventing disease after an aerosol challenge, animal studies utilizing Rhesus monkeys have been performed. In two published studies, 29 of 30 monkeys given two doses of anthrax vaccine were protected against a lethal aerosol challenge. The one monkey fatality was in the group that was challenged almost two years later. In an additional published study, all 10 monkeys that received one dose of vaccine survived aerosol challenge 6 weeks later. Thus 39 of 40 monkeys vaccinated with the licensed anthrax vaccine – or 98 percent – survived a lethal aerosol challenge.

While statistically significant data on human inhalational exposure do not exist, the human antibody response to vaccine and the animal protection data provide compelling evidence that the vaccine series will be effective in preventing disease after an aerosol exposure from all anthrax strains.

I am sure the author had the most recent vaccination literature available to him when preparing this article. So I find it hard to understand why the information on the FDA Product Information Leaflet was not included in the article. This leaflet must be included within every shipment of the vaccine. The actual name of the vaccine is "Anthrax Vaccine Adsorbed." One can deduce from that logic that the vaccine only protects those who come into contact with anthrax spores and has it adsorbed through the skin.

The term "adsorbed" is different from the word "absorbed." Vaccines that are adsorbed have their active ingredients attached onto the surface of a chemical called an adjuvant. Adjuvant comes from the Latin word for "to help." The adjuvant in anthrax vaccine is a form of aluminum that increases the antibody response from vaccination.

Additionally, the leaflet states that NO STUDIES have been conducted on the effect of the vaccine on fertility and reproduction, nor if the vaccine has any carcinogenic effects. Can a lack of these studies truly deem a product "totally safe?"

Lastly, according to the U.S. Government Material Safety Sheet, formaldehyde is not approved for human consumption. Yet the vaccine contains a concentration of formaldehyde "not to exceed 0.02%" to aid in preservation. This is not a legal vaccine to distribute to humans as a result, in my opinion.

The FDA Product Information Leaflet is included with every shipment of the vaccine and is present at every immunization. Product Information Leaflets are not routinely distributed during vaccinations by either the military or the civilian medical communities.

No studies have been conducted on the effect of this vaccine on fertility and reproduction or on possible carcinogenic effects. In fact, the FDA does not require studies of this type on *any* vaccine. They are, therefore, not conducted by the pharmaceutical industry. This is not uncommon. Many products licensed by the FDA, such as aspirin and vitamins, are sold and widely consumed without these studies.

The Material Safety Data Sheet correctly warns people not to swallow formaldehyde. Formaldehyde and other substances are FDA-approved for use in the vaccine manufacturing process. This is closely regulated and monitored by the FDA. In this vaccine, no more than 0.02% formaldehyde and 0.0025% benzethonium chloride are added as preservatives – less than 1/300th of a drop. Many of the diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (commonly called DTP) immunizations routinely given to children in the U.S. and to all new recruits to the military contain formaldehyde – as does some versions of the polio and plague vaccines.

Other Concerns

There have been questions, based on religious concerns, concerning the alleged use of pork or pork products in production of this vaccine. No animal products are used in this process.

The anthrax vaccine does not contain squalene. Anthrax vaccine has never contained squalene. Independent testing recently conducted on every lot of vaccine in the current stockpile did not detect squalene. Squalene occurs naturally in humans as a precursor to cholesterol and is a component of many commercial products. Medical science has not established any cause and effect relationship between squalene and any known diseases. The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research are conducting further research to establish the relationship of squalene to human health.

SFC Deimel, your article is clearly one sided. I am not saying that the vaccine is not safe, I am saying that it is not completely tested. This needs to be corrected before any more vaccine is given.

As discussed above, Anthrax Vaccine Adsorbed has been extensively tested both as a condition of granting of the original FDA license and subsequently. That testing continues today.

See RESPONSE, page 30

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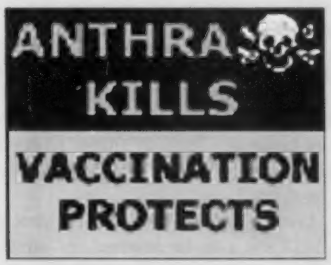

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RESPONSE

From page 29

Although I cannot find a copy, if you could get a copy of the 20 Feb 98 FDA Inspection Report on the Michigan Biologic Products Institute,(Lansing, MI, Meryl Nass M.D. 19 May 98) you would be horrified that a vaccine produced in a lab with numerous serious quality control problems is distributed to our soldiers!

Moreover, the Secretary of Defense stipulated that the vaccine would be tested for sterility, safety, purity and potency prior to administration to any service member. This level of scrutiny is unprecedented for any immunization in this country.

The Department of Defense and the Army Office of the Surgeon General have been closely monitoring the production facility since planning for the AVIP first began. The FDA inspection in question occurred in 1997 and cited "significant deviations" from federal standards for record-keeping and testing procedures. This was one of the reasons that the plant owner at the time (the State owned as Michigan Biologic Products Institute), the Department of Defense, and the company which was purchasing the facility (BioPort), decided in early 1998 to cease further production to allow for extensive renovations.

The 1998 FDA report did not question the safety of the vaccine. The FDA never closed the plant, never recalled a single dose of vaccine, and validated the quality of every lot released. In testimony to Congress on April 29, 1999, Dr Kathryn Zoon, Director of the FDA's Center for Biologicals Evaluation and Research, stated "Mr. Chairman, we believe the anthrax vaccine is a safe and effective vaccine for the prevention of anthrax disease." None-the-less, the DoD-requested supplemental testing went forward to further ensure that the vaccine is safe and effective.

Today, the BioPort plant is a state of the art facility capable of meeting the anthrax vaccine needs of the entire Department of Defense. Renewed vaccine production will not resume, however, until the FDA certifies the facility for continued operation under new ownership.

The Army has also developed an automated tracking system for recording the anthrax immunizations. Dubbed the Medical Force Protection System – or MEDPROS – this system provides near real time recording of the date immunized, name of the vaccine, vaccine manufacturer, lot number, series number, dosage, provider name and administration address. This system will eventually be expanded to include all immunizations given soldiers, and will provide a centralized repository for the information currently contained in individual health and immunization records. A more extensive description of MEDPROS will appear in the next issue of *Army Reserve.*

More than 3000 USAR soldiers have begun their anthrax vaccination series. The immunization is required for all service members traveling to or in the contiguous waters of Southwest Asia (Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Israel) and the Korean Peninsula. There have been no confirmed incidents of serious adverse reactions attributable to the anthrax vaccine.

The DoD directed anthrax immunization policy has been developed to provide all military personnel with protection against one of the most significant biological threats against our forces today. The vaccine is safe and effective in protecting against illness from anthrax. However, it is important to remember that no vaccine is 100 percent effective.

America's Army is made of the best soldiers in the world. They deserve the best protection available against any threat. The Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program provides that protection. Anything less is unacceptable.

Understanding the anthrax threat and the protective measures against it are essential.

The AVIP home page at www.anthrax.osd.mil offers information and an interactive forum for leaders, soldiers, and family members.

An expanded version of this article can be found at the USAR home page at www.army.mil/usar

ANTHRAX VACCINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM AVIP

Y2K

From page 22

more than Y2K system failures. In addition, CAT members must prepare contingencies for Y2K threats such as power outages, lack of mail services and civil unrest. We expect to have CAT members on-site at OCAR, USARC and AR-PERSCOM during the December 1999 and January 2000 time frame.

What should you do?

Review Y2K postings and contingency plans on the USARC Intranet at http://usarcintra/y2k. Questions may be directed to the USAR Y2K Project Office at y2kpm.usar@arpstl-emh2.army.mil. For more information about Y2K and the Department of Defense, visit the DoD Y2K site at www.defenselink.mil/specials/y2k/.

(Streeter-King is an Information Manage-ment Specialist with AR-PERSCOM)

LIFE

From page 23

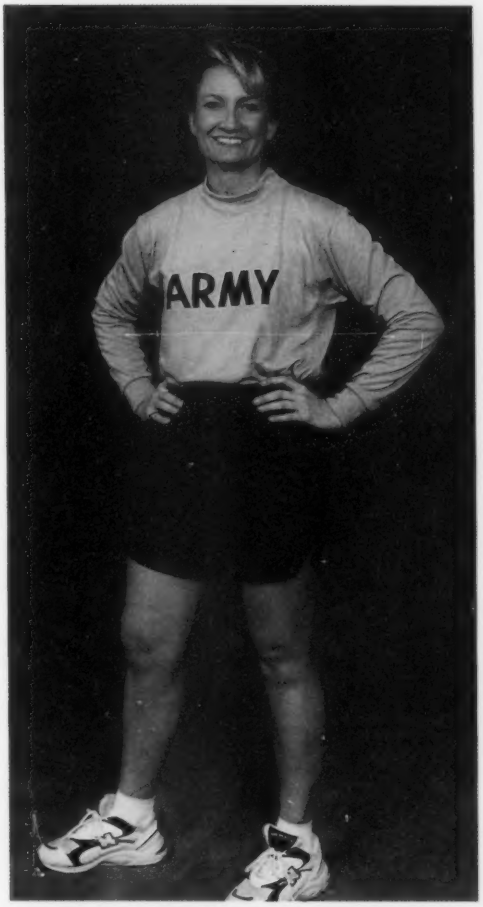
Klee said. "Experience allows a person to be more focused on the job at hand, no matter what the issue may be. Your adrenaline kicks in - fight or flight. Everything else is gone, and we just did what needed to be done."

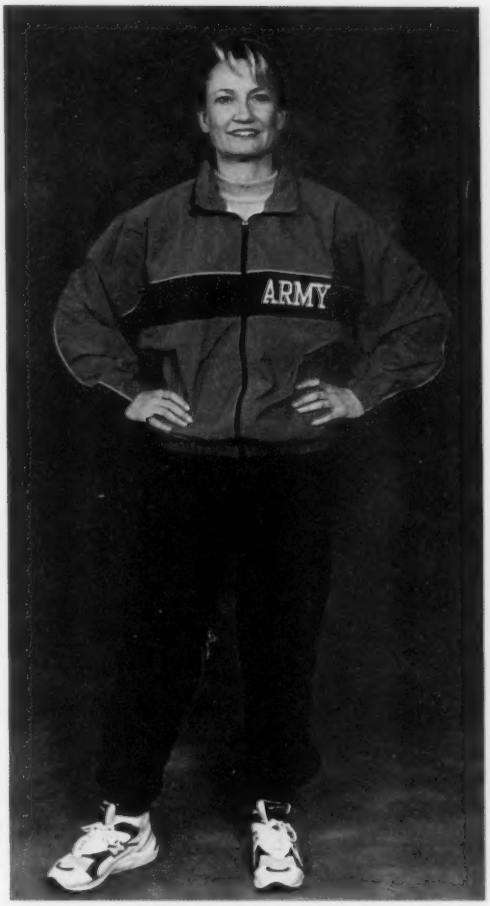
"Looking back, I feel good about what I did. CPR can be learned by anybody. You never know when you're going to need it, it may be for a family member, a loved one, a friend or someone you don't know — and if you do need it, you're going to feel good about it when you're done."

The person Klee saved is certainly glad he knew what to do. "I can't express how neat it was," said Brock, who has been released from the hospital and is doing well. "I know God was looking over me and put Dan there as my guardian angel."

(Geddes is a Public Affairs Specialist with the 88th RSC Public Affairs Office)

New PT uniform approved





A new physical training uniform has been approved for issue to new soldiers in May 2000 and in clothing sales stores in October 2000. The new uniform is made from high-tech fabrics found in civilian wear. The uniform will feature a short and long sleeve shirt, black shorts and jacket and pants that are water resistant. The jacket does not contain a hood. Photos by Sarah Underhill, Soldier Systems-Natick.

by Tonya Johnson

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 28, 1999) — A new physical training uniform was approved for soldiers' use by Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, former Army Chief of Staff, on June 9.

"I think it's a great improvement. It's lighter, washes better and looks sharper," said Lt. Col. Steve Pinter, product manager for Enhanced Soldier Systems at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Since Dec. 22, 1998, selected units from Fort Drum, N.Y., Fort Jackson, S.C., Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Hood, Texas and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, spent 100 days testing four versions of the new PT uniform.

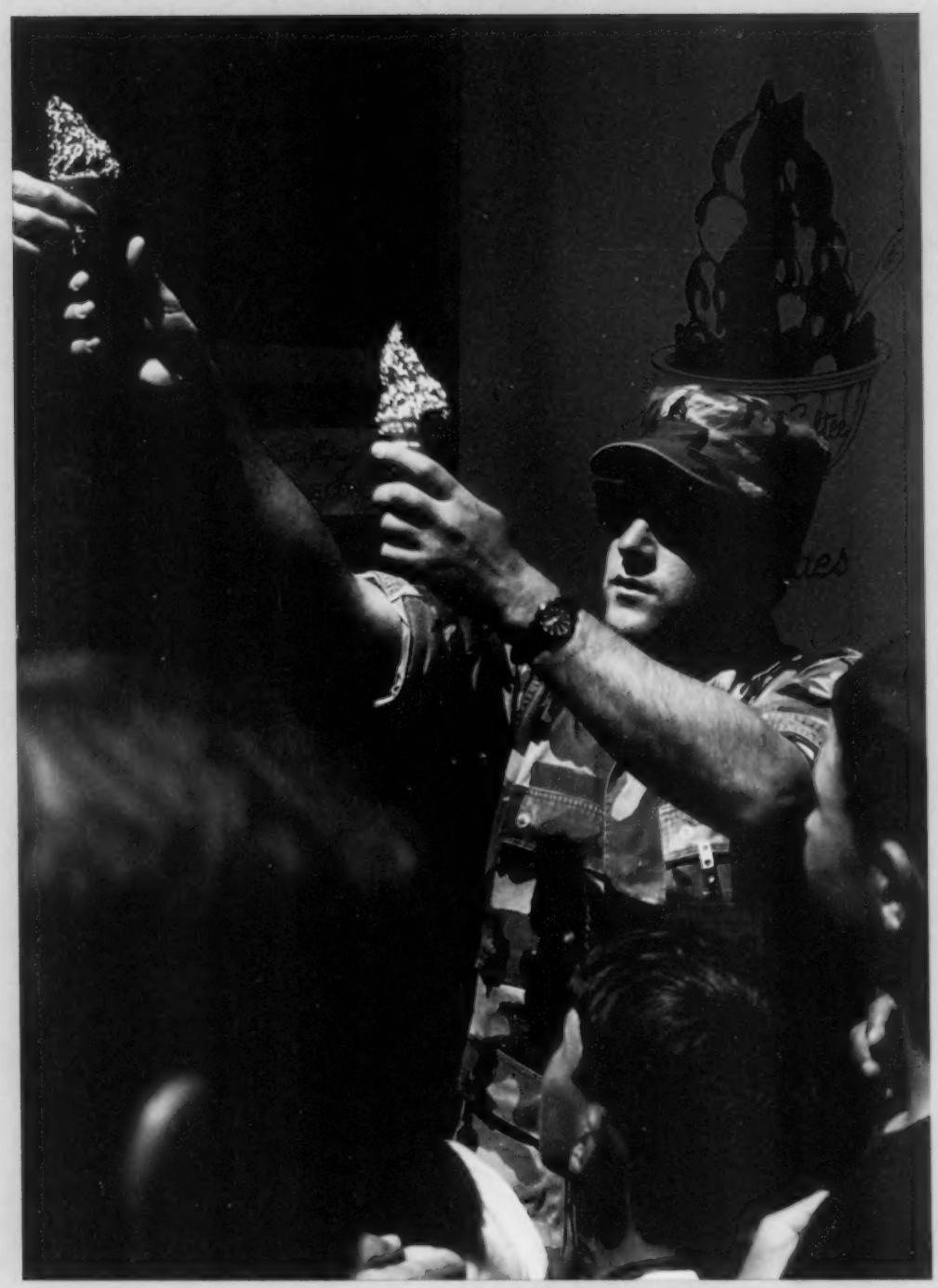
"We asked for units that had a fair mix of male and female soldiers," said Pinter. The purpose was to make sure that both male and female soldiers had adequate input on the new PT uniforms.

The new uniforms will cost almost double (approximately $110) that of the current PT uniforms, which have been issued since 1986. The reasons for the increase in the uniform price include inflation, different material and different design.

Even though some soldiers may seem alarmed by the price, when compared to similar civilian outfits, the cost can be anywhere from $180 to $200.

The t-shirts, which are made with Cool Max material and cotton, won't cling to a person's body. The new jacket and pants are water-resistant. There are zippers in the leg, and zippers underneath the arms to let escape.

(Johnson is a summer college intern working with Army News Service.)



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